



## Steven Leahy

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## Artist's Statement



I have a compelling urge to capture the attention of everyone viewing my paintings. The world around us offers an absolutely incredible amount of visual information that we simply allow ourselves to tune out in everyday overload. My goal with each painting is to capture that moment, and slow the viewer down long enough to take in the world of details and colors that are always there but seldom noticed. Each painting becomes an entire landscape made up of these seemingly plain, everyday moments. In order to accurately translate that visual information, I have chosen the vibrancy and permanence of waterborne automotive paint for my work. The primary tool used to apply this paint is an airbrush. I have found few

other tools that match the airbrushes ability to fade and blend colors. This control of paint, seamless washes of color and the absence of brush strokes, allows me to push the limits of realism in all of my work. Three pieces that represent my current direction and vision all examine complex patterns in simple everyday objects. 'Good Dram' illustrates twelve different colored bottles and explores the incredible refraction and reflection of light through and off them. In 'Taylor's Cache,' stacked and worn gears create a short but powerful sense of depth while the oxidized metal creates some truly spectacular textures. Finally, 'Jody's Jewel' pushes detailed miniature airbrush painting to the extreme, in this case the painting is reduced to an image size of only 1-3/8 inches by 2-1/2 inches. All the detail of a larger painting packed onto a tiny titanium substrate no bigger than a business card. I feel very fortunate that both my ability and choice of medium have allowed me to translate my visions onto canvas and various substrates.