



Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery

**PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST
JUSTIN HAYWARD**

It was while completing his MFA in Painting at the New York Academy of Art that Justin Hayward heard about the National Portrait Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006. "I'm really drawn to the academic realism of art and am just starting to dive into portraiture," says the twenty-five year old painter, "so I felt I had to enter this competition." Hayward's entry, "Young Marriage," caught the attention of those making selections for the "Portrait of an Artist" feature of the competition, and he is the fifth contemporary figurative painter to be thus featured on the competition Web site.

Before moving to New York to pursue graduate studies, Hayward studied illustration at Brigham Young University, where he will be teaching painting and drawing classes this winter. Hayward recently finished a course at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy. "I took a morning portrait class and my afternoons were filled with museum visits, landscape painting, and drawing in my sketchbook. I have also learned a tremendous amount by copying paintings and drawings from old masters and present-day artists, so the chance to absorb the great masters in Italy was wonderful."

Originally from Traverse City, Mich., Hayward now lives in Jersey City, N. J., with his wife, who is also from Traverse City, and French bulldog Mimi. Hayward chose to enter the double portrait of his wife and him titled "Young Marriage," because he says the painting "contains my own personal experiences and the emotions associated with them. Located throughout the portrait are symbols associated with a young marriage such as expectation, uncertainty, and sexual desire. Throughout my academic career, I have studied privately with many renowned artists who have taught me different techniques and presented new ideas, and 'Young Marriage' is representative of this."

Hayward says he bases his contemporary figurative art on everyday life experiences and enjoys portraiture because he finds it to be challenging and exciting. While he continues to create commissioned illustrations and portraits, Hayward also participates in group shows, and is currently searching for representation in a gallery.

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Media: For more information or to schedule an interview with Justin Hayward, please contact Vicki Moeser at (202) 357-2627 Ext. 111 or Shonali Burke at (202) 974-5027 or burkes@ruderfinn.com. For more information on the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006, please visit www.portraitcompetition.si.edu.