

Wish You Were Here: *T. Garrett Eaton*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

My family has lived in the East Bay since the 1950's, and I grew up in Pleasant Hill. After I attended University in Santa Cruz in 2001, graduate school in New York, and spent two years living in Oregon, I returned to Oakland in 2010 and lived there until 2019. Much of my family still lives in the Bay Area.

What prompted you to leave?

My wife and I would like to start a family and decided that the Bay Area has become too expensive, with limited or expensive opportunities for parental leave and childhood education.

Where did you end up?

Since my wife is Canadian, we relocated to Vancouver, BC in March of 2019. In the coming years we may move to Vancouver Island where the cost of living is more affordable.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

The natural environment in Vancouver has definitely impacted my plein air practice. There's a lot more water and moisture, and it is exciting to explore the varied geography in the area. So far my studio practice has remained largely the same.

What are you up to now?

Same as when I lived in Oakland, I split my time between commercial animation work and oil painting. I continue to be primarily focused on still lifes, but would like to expand the scope of my work in the coming years.