

JOSH TIESSEN

Born in 1995 in Moscow, Russia
Based in New York City, NY

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

- 2025 "Light, Shade, and Glazing in Oil" Workshop with Christian Rex van Minnen, Anderson Ranch Arts Center
- 2024 MA: Art History, University of Toronto - GPA 4.0
- 2023 "Art in Orvieto" Art, Religion, and Theology: Theologies of Art in the Christian Tradition, Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto School of Theology - GPA 4.0
- 2021 "Blender from a Painter's Point of View" Workshop with Martin Wittfooth, SmArt School
- 2020 "Instagram for Artists" Workshop with Dina Brodsky, New York Academy of Art
- BRE: Arts and Biblical Studies (Philosophy Concentration), Emmanuel Bible College, graduated with Highest Honours - GPA 3.99
- 2012 "New Generation Emerging Artist Mentor Project," Art Gallery of Burlington. Master Artist: Professor Judy Major-Girardin, McMaster University School of the Arts, one-year mentorship and exhibition program
- 2010 Robert Bateman Master Artist Seminar, Hollyhock Educational Retreat Centre

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 "The Peaceable Kingdom," Moshava Gallery, New York, NY
- 2024 "Vanitas + Viriditas" Book Launch, Redeemer University, Hamilton, ON
- "Creation Longs" Retrospective, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2023 "Vanitas + Viriditas," Rehs Contemporary, New York City, NY
- 2020 "Streams in the Wasteland II," Corey Helford Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 "Streams in the Wasteland," Jonathan LeVine Projects, Jersey City, NJ
- "10th Annual Open House" (2010-2019), Josh Tiessen Studio Gallery, Stoney Creek, ON
- 2018 "Josh Tiessen at RZIM Gallery," CBC Canada, Toronto, ON
- 2017 "Watching Paint Peel," The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
- 2014 "The Visceral," Josh Tiessen Studio Gallery, Stoney Creek, ON
- 2010 "Josh Tiessen: Launching into Fine Art," Art Gallery of Burlington, ON
- 2007 "Beginnings, Art by Josh Tiessen," Artway on Two, Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington, ON

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (from 100)

- 2026 “Generations,” Creative.NYC Gallery, New York City, NY
- 2025 “American Wildlife Art Competition & Exhibition,” Arcadian Gallery, Cumberland, MD
 “Surreal Salon 17,” Baton Rouge Gallery Center for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2024 Creative.NYC Pop-Up Exhibition, Church of the City, New York City, NY
 Rehs Contemporary, Art Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL
 “Chaos and Tranquility,” WOW x WOW Gallery, United Kingdom
- 2023 Rehs Contemporary, Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Hamptons, NY
 Rehs Contemporary, Art Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Florida
- 2022 “16th Annual Jackson Hole Art Auction,” Jackson Hole, WY
 Rehs Contemporary, LA Art Show, Los Angeles, CA
 Rehs Contemporary, Art Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Florida
- 2021 Rehs Contemporary, LA Art Show, Los Angeles, CA
 “15th Annual Jackson Hole Art Auction,” Jackson Hole, WY
 “Small Works,” Beinart Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 “Ritual Deluxe,” WOW x WOW Gallery, United Kingdom
- 2020 “The Society of Animal Artists Members Exhibition,” Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, NJ
 “Taking Flight” Rehs Contemporary Gallery, New York City, NY
 “International Exhibit of Nature in Art” (2013-2020), Artists for Conservation, Vancouver, BC
- 2019 “Lucky 13 Anniversary Show,” Corey Helford Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 “Ascent,” Talon Gallery, Portland, OR
- 2018 2-Person: Josh Tiessen Studio Gallery, LA Art Show, Los Angeles, CA
 “Sketch for Survival Tour,” Gallery at Oxo London, United Kingdom - New York City, NY
- 2017 Juxtapoz Magazine "Clubhouse," Miami, FL
 Jonathan LeVine Projects, Scope Miami, Miami, FL
 “Search for the Next Great Artist,” Jonathan LeVine Projects, Jersey City, NJ
 “Exordium,” Gallery 1261, Denver, Colorado
 “Winter Salon,” The Marshall Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
 “Small Works,” Gallery 1261, Denver, CO
- 2016 “Remnants,” Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, SC
 “Masterworks from the International Guild of Realism,” R.W. Norton Gallery, Shreveport LA; Appleton Museum of Art, Ocala FL; Albany Museum of Art, Albany, GA
 “Metamorphosis,” Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON
 “International Guild of Realism 11th Annual Juried Exhibition,” Gallery 1261, Denver, CO
- 2015 “International Guild of Realism 9th Annual Juried Exhibition,” Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, SC
 “International Guild of Realism 10th Annual Juried Exhibition,” Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA
 “Wetlands: An Artist’s Perspective,” Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON
- 2014 “Algonquin by Night,” Algonquin Art Centre, Algonquin Park, ON
 “International Guild of Realism 8th Annual Juried Exhibition,” Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe, AZ
- 2013 3-Person: “I Go to Nature,” James North Gallery, Hamilton Artists Inc., Hamilton, ON
 “International Guild of Realism,” Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe, AZ
 “The Artist Project,” Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON
- 2012 12-Person: “So you want to be an artist?” National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa ON
- 2009 Anastasia Gallery, Hamilton, ON

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONOURS (from 60)

- 2024 Recipient of Graduate Scholarship, Linlathen Lectures, Windstone Farm
- 2023 Outstanding Artistic Contribution, Ontario Minister of Culture, M.P.P. Neil Lumsden
 Recipient of the Ruth and Inès Memorial Scholarship for Artistic Education
- 2021 (2015-2021) Hamilton Community News Readers' Choice Diamond Awards, #1 Best Local Artist and #1 Best Local Gallery for Josh Tiessen Studio Gallery

- 2019 Rehs Contemporary Gallery Award for “New Sheriff in Town,” Annual Salon Competition, Art Renewal Center USA
- 2018 Dual Category Award for “Occidental Babylon,” Landscape & Animals, Annual Salon Competition, Art Renewal Center USA
- 2017 First Place Winner, Delusional: Search for the Next Great Artist, Jonathan LeVine Projects
Canada 150 Sesquicentennial Constituent Award, Government of Canada
- 2016 Best Wildlife Award, International Guild of Realism
- 2014 Creative Achievement Award, International Guild of Realism
- 2013 Canada’s Top 20 Under 20 Award, Plan International Canada
- 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Government of Canada

NOTABLE SALES OF ORIGINAL WORKS (from 200)

<i>Beacon of Hope</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 40 x 28 inches (Framed) 2023	\$18,500 CAD
<i>Swallowed by Knowledge</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 30 x 40 x 2 inches 2021	\$22,500 CAD
<i>Agnus Dei</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 65 x 105 x 2 inches (Framed) 2020-2021	\$75,000 CAD
<i>Creation Cathedral</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 35 x 24 x 2 inches 2022	\$17,000 CAD
<i>Occidental Babylon</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 52 x 75 x 5 inches (Framed) 2017	\$17,400 CAD
<i>Dark Night of the Soul</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 45 x 33 inches (Framed) 2016	\$16,500 CAD
<i>Brother Wolf</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 48 x 24 x 2 inches 2015	\$21,000 CAD
<i>Whale Hymn</i> Oil on Baltic Birch, 36 x 48 x 2 inches 2015	\$24,000 CAD

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Crandall University, Moncton, NB
Brott Music Festival, Hamilton, ON

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2025 Creo Arts, Wilmore, KY
Moshava Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED SPEAKING AND TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS (from 50)

2026 Forefront Festival, New York City, NY
2025 The Anselm Society, Colorado Springs, CO
Muskoka Bible Centre, Huntsville, ON
Kenosha Christian Academy, Drawing Instructor and Lecturer, Kenosha, WI
Creo Arts Gallery/Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY
Relevant Series, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
2024 Stony Brook School, Painting Instructor and Lecturer, Long Island, NY
McMaster Divinity College at McMaster University, Lecturer, Hamilton, ON
A Rocha Annual Fundraiser, Artist Panel Moderator, Hamilton, ON
2023 Forefront Festival, Rochester, NY
Annual Kuyper Conference, Redeemer University, Hamilton, ON
Heritage College and Seminary, Cambridge, ON
2022 Making New Conference, Rochester, NY
2021 Imagination Redeemed Conference, Colorado Springs, CO
2019 Presidents Day, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Relevant Series, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
2018 Artist Talk at RZIM Canada, CBC, Toronto, ON
2016 (2014-2016) Occasional Lecturer in Art and Design Foundations, Niagara College, Niagara Falls, ON
2015 Start-It Youth Conference, Hamilton Convention Centre, ON
2014 (2013-2014) G.R. Allan Elementary School, Hamilton, ON
(2012, 2014) St. Patrick's Catholic Elementary School, Hamilton, ON
2013 Catholic District Arts Retreat, Niagara Region, ON
2011 Kiwanis Club of Stoney Creek, ON
Lions Club of Stoney Creek, ON

VOLUNTEER WORK AND PHILANTHROPY

2024 Focus Group Leader for Young Professionals, Glad Tidings Church
2024 Art Instructor in Maggotty, Jamaica, Equip to Serve (Arts Non-Profit)
2023-Present Fundraising & Event Planner, A Rocha Canada (Environmental Non-Profit)
2014-Present Founder, Arts for a Change Foundation (donated over \$60,000 to 75 charities supporting humanitarian and conservation causes)
2022-Present Advisory Team Member for Creators Collective, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
2013-Present Board Member, Friends of the Eramosa Karst (Conservation Area)
2014-2018 Founder & Curator, Bethany Art Gallery and Bethany Artists Group
2014-2015 Art Instructor, TAG (Talents & Gifts) March Break Camp
2013 Juror, Award Presenter, Speaker and Exhibitor, Lion's Int'l Peace Poster Contest
2012-2018 Planning Committee Chairperson, Gallery Curator, enKindle Arts Festival
2012-2014 Corporate sponsor for basketball team, Newman Youth Basketball

SELECTED ARTICLES AND BOOKS BY JOSH TIESSEN (from 20)

Tiessen, Josh. "Greening the White Cube." *Quill Journal* (2025), Online.
—. "Greening Wisdom." *Image Journal* 123 (2024): 24-33.
—. *Vanitas + Viriditas*. Stoney Creek: JTSG Publishing, 2024.

- . “Wisdom in a Technocratic Age.” *Love Is Moving* 53 (2023).
- . “How to Become a Patron of the Arts.” *Love Is Moving* 51 (2022).
- . “Streams in the Wasteland.” *Ekstasis Magazine* 9 (2022): 36-43.
- . *Streams in the Wasteland*. Stoney Creek: JTSG Publishing, 2021.
- . “Rise Up: Ezekiel’s Vision Still Speaks.” *Love is Moving* 44 (2021): 12-13.
- . “Dark Night of the Soul.” *Love is Moving* 43 (2021): 10-11.
- . “Sanctified Imagination.” *Ekstasis Magazine* 3 (2018): 28-29.
- . “Christianity: Friend or Foe of the Environment?” *Love is Moving* 30 (2018): 5.
- Tiessen, Julie A., and Josh Tiessen. *Josh Tiessen: A Decade of Inspiration*. Stoney Creek: JTSG Publishing, 2016.

SELECTED PRESS AND MEDIA (from 200)

- 2025 “Josh Tiessen, Narrative Hyper-Surrealism, and Beauty,” **Beauty Through Faith Podcast**, August 5.
“Faith & Art: The Biblically Inspired Paintings of Josh Tiessen,” **Imagine Magazine**.
“Canadian Creatives: Josh Tiessen,” **Faith Today**, March/April.
“Vanitas + Viriditas with Josh Tiessen,” **The Perspective with Mike Sherbino**, July 9.
- 2024 “The Intersection of Art and Faith with Josh Tiessen,” **Conversation & Connections with Sandee Macgregor**, September 10.
“Vanitas + Viriditas feat. Josh Tiessen,” **The Substance Podcast**, September 5.
“Are we really in Decline?” **Comment Magazine**, Fall (front cover feature).
“Season 7: Episode 5 | Josh Tiessen | Faith-Inspired Art by Josh Tiessen,” **Scripture Untangled Podcast**, June 21.
“Creation Longs - Josh Tiessen,” **Canadian Bible Society** Video Podcast, May.
- 2023 “Josh Tiessen,” **American Art Collective**, United States, May 9.
“All is Vanity and Vitality: An Interview with Hyper-Surrealist Painter, Josh Tiessen,” **Inkwell Magazine** (Formerly **Ekstasis Magazine**), May 1.
“Traverse Nature And Humanity Through The Spiritual, Scholarly, Humorous Visual Narratives of Artist Josh Tiessen,” **Forbes** (online), April 29.
“A Love of Wisdom,” **American Art Collector Magazine**, April, pp. 100-101.
“Josh Tiessen’s new solo Vanitas and Viriditas at Rehs Contemporary,” **Beautiful Bizarre Magazine** (online), April 25.
- 2022 “How art shapes narrative and the way we see the world | Julie Ponesse & Josh Tiessen,” **The Democracy Fund** Video Podcast, September 7.
“Josh Tiessen: Streams in the Wasteland [Review],” **Englewood Review of Books** (online), January 10.
- 2021 “The Beauty of Art in a Grievous Time - Josh and Zac Tiessen,” **CTV News**, August 14.
“Episode 98: Streams in the Wasteland,” **Believe to See**, August 5, 2021.
“Book Review: Streams in the Wasteland,” **Arabella Magazine** (online), Summer.
“Artist Launches New Book,” **Faith Today Magazine**, July-August, p. 11.
- 2020 “Hyperreal to Otherworldly: New York City Gallery Partners with American Bird Conservancy to Reopen For Socially-Distanced Charity Exhibition,” **Forbes** (online), September 10.
“Taking Flight: ARC Select 2020,” **Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine** (online), October 9.
“Stoney Creek artist Josh Tiessen’s ‘Refracting Infinity’ offers us a glimpse of the divine through art,” **Toronto Star**, October 10, p. E1.
“Josh Tiessen,” Episode 17, **Art Affairs Podcast**, June 15.
- 2019 “Josh Tiessen: Nature Takes Over,” **American Art Collector Magazine**, May, pp. 140-141.
“Josh Tiessen,” **Wall Street International Magazine** (online), May 15.
“Showing: Josh Tiessen - ‘Streams in the Wasteland’ at Jonathan LeVine Projects,” **Arrested Motion** (online), May 23.
- 2018 “Interview: Gallerist Jonathan LeVine Leads Competition for Artists to Win a Solo Exhibition,” **My Modern Met** (online), May 15.
- 2017 “Artist Focus: Josh Tiessen,” **American Art Collector Magazine**, June, p. 125.
- 2016 “Decoding Genius: Josh and Zac Tiessen,” Episode 6, **Decoding Genius Podcast**, November 23.

The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent, Chapter 8 "Another Path to Prodigy," **Penguin Random House**.

"Geniuses, with a twist," **Toronto Star**, March 5, p. IN3.

"From Classical to Contemporary," **American Art Collector Magazine**, September, pp. 76-83.

2015 "Born An Artist: Two generations with painting in their bones," **CTV Canada AM**, February 18.

Complete Guide to Painting in Acrylics, **Search Press**, pp. 91, 265, 285.

2014 "Juxtaposing Elements," **International Artist Magazine**, February/March, pp. 108-115.

"Wonderful Wildlife," **Southwest Art Magazine**, March, p. 76.

"Beauty in Realism," **American Art Collector Magazine**, November, pp. 158-163.

2013 "Tiessen Brothers Discovered as Art Prodigies," **CBC Radio**, Toronto, Ontario, March 11.

"Identified as arts prodigies, Ontario brothers now contributing to science," **CBC News** (online), March 8.

"Top 20 Under 20' recognizes young Canadians making a difference," **Globe and Mail** (online), June 5.

"Stoney Creek painter Josh Tiessen one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20," **CBC News** (online),

June 6.

"Canada's got talent, inventiveness: Child prodigies to take part in innovation conference," **The Hamilton Spectator**, July 4, p. A4.

2012 "Post Childhood Prodigies," **HuffPost Live, Huffington Post**, Los Angeles, California, September 13.

"Heading to National Gallery? Stoney Creek teen aims high with his entry in So You Want To Be An Artist," **The Hamilton Spectator**, Saturday, April 7, G1.

"Stoney Creek teen's art hangs with Van Gogh at National Gallery," **CBC News** (online), June 5.

"10 Art Prodigies You Should Know," **Huffington Post** (online), New York, July 27.

MEMBERSHIPS

Art Renewal Center, *Associate Living Master* (current)

Society of Animal Artists, *Signature Member*

Artists for Conservation, *Signature Member*

BIOGRAPHY

Josh Tiessen was born in 1995 in Moscow, Russia to Canadian parents. He is an international award-winning contemporary artist based in New York City. Tiessen is best known for his hyper-surreal shaped oil paintings, which take up to 1700 hours to complete, and reflect the interaction between the natural world and human-made structures. Drawing upon his studies in theology and environmentalism, Tiessen holds a B.R.E. in Arts, Biblical Studies, and Philosophy (2020), and an M.A. in Art History from the University of Toronto (2024).

When he was a young artist, Josh was recognized as one of the world's top ten prodigy artists by *Huffington Post*, and the only known male art prodigy in North America by Dr. J. Ruthsatz, global prodigy expert. As a teenager, he was juried in as the youngest member of International Guild of Realism among foremost realist artists from around the world, Artists for Conservation and Society of Animal Artists—associations of the top nature and wildlife artists worldwide.

In his early twenties, Art Renewal Center designated Tiessen as an *Associate Living Master*, and New York based gallery Jonathan LeVine Projects awarded him First Place out of 2000 artists in their international competition "Search for the Next Great Artist." LeVine presented the emerging artist's debut international solo exhibition *Streams in the Wasteland* in 2019. Notable solo exhibitions include *Vanitas + Viriditas*, which took place at Rehs Contemporary Gallery in Manhattan in 2023 and an early career retrospective "Creation Longs," mounted at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto in 2024.

Mentored by masters such as acclaimed Canadian artist Robert Bateman, Tiessen has exhibited his work since 2006 in over 100 exhibitions including the National Gallery of Canada, and prominent museums and galleries in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. He has sold nearly 200 original works and hundreds of limited edition giclée prints to private and corporate Canadian and international collectors.

Featured 200 times in the press and media, the artist's work has been written about in publications such as *Forbes*, *CBC*, *Toronto Star*, *American Art Collector*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, and *International Artist*. Tiessen is a sought-after speaker and teacher, having lectured at Niagara College, McMaster University, and Stony Brook School, among others. Making over 100 invited art donations to charitable organizations, he established the Arts for a Change Foundation to benefit individuals and organizations making a difference through humanitarian and conservation efforts.

His work is the subject of three art monograph books, including *Vanitas + Viriditas* (2024) and *Streams in the Wasteland* (2021), a multi-disciplinary project with composer Zac Tiessen, which CTV National News called "a masterpiece." This prolific artist has garnered numerous awards and honours including International Guild of Realism *Creative Achievement*, *Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal*, and Canada's 150th Anniversary *Sesquicentennial Constituent Award*, for his artistic accomplishment and philanthropic work.