



Urban landscape painter **Scott Prior** proves that a contemporary, “punk-rock” alternative to classical California subject matter can still produce moving and thought-provoking imagery.

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by James A. Metcalfe

Scott Prior is often classified as a California impressionist, and given that he was born and raised in Southern California and that the majority of his subject matter is rooted in California settings, this label suits him just fine. However, the artist takes this one step further and actually prefers to define himself as “a classical impressionist with a contemporary, punk-rock edge,” which not only classifies his approach to painting but also reflects his own personal style.

What sets Prior apart from so many other Golden State artists is the focus of his subject matter. Avoiding the sun, surf, and Hollywood glitz that many envision when they think of California, Prior finds more joy in painting the simple, everyday scenes of urban life in California. “So often it is the simple aspects of life that tell the best story,” the artist states. When choosing a story to convey through his paintings, Prior draws from either past memories or current observations of his surroundings. Other times, he says, the subject matter chooses him.

When the artist does consciously choose a subject, it is often one close to his heart and from deep in his mind.

Scott Prior:

A Contemporary Approach to California Impressionism

