

## **Nathan Popp Interview:**

### **How would you describe your area of study to a novice?**

Usually when someone asks me what I paint I tell them I use watercolor to create imagined surrealistic landscapes on abstract backgrounds. I also tell people that I like to experiment with non-traditional techniques and mediums.

### **What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**

As a Graduate Teaching Fellow I was allowed to teach art classes on a collegiate level, gaining experience in a profession that I aspire to have after graduate school. Also, having a graduate advisor that I can look to for inspiration has been motivating.

### **Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?**

I do feel that there is value in networking with other graduate students even if they are not in the same area of study. Networking with other grad students not only helps with opportunities later in life but my art is influenced by nature, science and literature in which learning new ideas from other students is inspiring to me.

### **What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**

To relieve stress I usually do some sort of outdoor activity like hiking, disc golf, fishing, etc.

### **What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?**

The last book I read for pleasure was *Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living* by Nick Offerman about 6 months ago.

### **Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

The most meaningful relationship I have made while at Radford University would be my graduate advisor Z L Feng. Not only is he the reason I decided to pursue a master's at Radford but he has presented me opportunities to have my work displayed in galleries and printed in publications. I also feel that he pushes his graduate students to develop their own style of painting and does not try to make clones from his success.

### **What surprised you the most about graduate school?**

What surprised me the most about working on my master's degree at Radford was how rewarding it was to teach and inspire students in a subject that I am passionate about.

### **If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?**

This is an odd question but if I had to contribute something to a mission to Mars I am sure it would be relative to the Arts; maybe I would research watercolor painting in low/zero gravity.

**What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?**

Being from Texas, my favorite comfort food has to be Mexican food. I thought it would be difficult to find authentic Mexican food in southwest Virginia but one of Radford's secrets is a place called Latino's Taste on Main street in west end; I eat there once or twice a week.

**If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?**

That's hard to say but I would still be honing my craft while working some menial job and applying to more graduate schools.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**

December 2014.