



Becoming
30
HOTCHKISS
ARTISTS

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HOTCHKISS
Tremaine Gallery

THE HOTCHKISS SCHOOL | 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, CT | 860.435.3663 | hotchkiss.org/arts

Morgan Bulkeley '62



Photo by Thomas Trapp

Life

Morgan Bulkeley was born in the Berkshires of Massachusetts in 1946. He grew up on a small farm in the town of Mount Washington, where his maternal parents, raised wild, explained animals. He graduated from Yale University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in English Literature. After a stint in the Coast Guard, he spent a year in Newark, New Jersey, drafting and working with the Veterans in Service of America (VISTA). Subsequently Bulkeley spent 14 years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, painting and sculpting. In 1985 he returned to his childhood home where he lives with his environmentalist wife Eleanor Tillgham.

Work

As a lower mid at Harkness in 1999, I took an art course with Bob Speier (Instructor in Art, 1996-1998); we explored working with abstraction, black and white aqua prints, and eventually with color. I think it was around that year that Erik Perret became the new art teacher. Suddenly, his open, non-dogmatic approach allowed us to move in our own directions, and I found this class a huge leap away from assignment, and into imagination.

My tastes have changed over the years moving from Pre-Raphaelite masters, to Henri Rousseau, to Hieronymus Bosch, to Philip Guston, to Carroll Dunham. I found the terrain between primitive narrative and Dostoyevskian energy so clearly connected to my inclinations and ideas.

I want to make paintings that strike me as beautiful, funny, and terrible all at once. It fits my sense of a world of beauty, a world of horror for the things human beings are capable of doing.

Art, for me, is a stick to poke people into stepping outside their "normal" way of perceiving the world.



Morgan Bulkeley, *Dust of a Little Dream of an evening*, 1977, 107" x 107", 2015.