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## Jim Zwadlo

Zwadlo grew up on a dairy, helping his family feed 50 cows in northern Wisconsin. In 1967, he began his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, and in 1980, he received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts' degree from SUNY-Potsdam. He continued to live in New York City for 20 years until finally coming to reside in the South Side of Milwaukee.

### Artist's Statement

My subject is people represented realistically in an abstract urban space, as seen from an imaginary aerial point of view. I title the paintings "Pedestrians" to make it clear that the point of view is the point of the painting; the people are not doing anything especially interesting, just walking in the street.

I lived for many years in New York City, working in office buildings, thinking about how to orient myself. From the aerial point of view, to me, the Manhattan landscape became, literally, a map of itself. The urban space flattened visually into a kind of "found" painting. Being a native Midwesterner, I translated my sense of the flatness of the Midwestern landscape into a solution to how to paint the verticality of the urban landscape.

I use photographs as a way to reconstruct images from the real world and transfer them to the real painting. For me, photography functions as a catalyst, as in a chemical reaction: photographs are instrumental to making the painting, but they do not appear in the completed painting.

I refer to Impressionist cityscapes, Bauhaus photography, New York School abstraction, and Minimalism as some important influences.

For me, the urban pedestrian symbolizes a complex social milieu. I paint each figure as a detailed individual portrait, familiar yet anonymous. I construct the crowd from thousands of photographs, arranged randomly to suggest patterns, and in patterns that suggest randomness.

Imagery from the aerial point of view is instantly recognizable even though we rarely directly experience it. In contrast with traditional perspective, with its closer-is-bigger implied hierarchy, from above each figure is equal in scale and in space, as in a democratic vision, but with the added ambiguity between the arrogance of "looking down" versus "looking at." The aerial view makes it possible to imply the entire infrastructure of the city: cars, buildings, streets, etc., without actually depicting any of those things.

The aerial view compresses space. The spatial flattening of the images intensifies the surface of the painting, and enhances the colors in a unique way. The compressed space is a map, a kind of living map, which shows a way of seeing, and a way of being in the world.

### Education:

1967 – 1970	University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1979 – 1980	SUNY-Potsdam, NY <b>BFA-Fine Arts</b> 1980
1995 – 1996	Long Island University, NY <b>MLS</b> 1996

### Recent Exhibitions:

2009	<b>8 Counties</b> , Kohler Art Center, Juried show, Sheboygan WI
2009	<b>Forward!</b> Juried show, Charles Allis Art Museum, Milwaukee WI
2009	<b>Group Show</b> , Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee WI
2009	<b>Wisconsin Artists Biennial 2009</b> , Juried, Rahr-West Museum, Manitowoc WI

2010 **Art From the Heartland**, Juried, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis IN  
 2010 **Jim Zwadlo & Philip Krejcarek**, Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee WI  
 2010 **Real People 2010**, Juried, Woodstock IL  
 2010 **Vertigo In Flatland**, Solo show, Wisconsin Union Galleries, Madison WI  
 2010 **Annual Salon**, Walkers Point Art Center, Milwaukee WI  
 2010 **Winter Juried Exhibition**, Anderson Arts Center, Kenosha WI  
 2011 **Gallery 2622**, solo show, Wauwatosa WI  
 2011 **Wisconsin Artists Biennial 2011**, Juried, Anderson Arts Center, Kenosha WI  
 2011 **Suitcase IV**, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee WI  
 2011 **Group Show**, Hennes Art Company, Minneapolis MN  
 2011 **Summer Group Show**, Jules Place, Boston MA  
 2011 **Inaugural Show**, Beals & Abbate Fine Art, Santa Fe NM  
 2011 **Summer Show**, M A Doran Gallery, Tulsa OK  
 2012 **Solo Show**, Beals & Abbate Fine Art, Santa Fe NM  
 2012 **MARN Salon**, Milwaukee WI

### Recent Commissions:

American Bankers Association, Washington DC  
 National Football League, Baltimore MD  
 Central Grocers, Joliet IL  
 Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston MA  
 Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Madison WI  
 National Association of Letter Carriers, Baltimore MD  
 Stone & Youngberg, New York NY  
 Stone & Youngberg, Chicago IL  
 Fountaindale Public Library, Bolingbroke IL  
 American Career College, Anaheim CA  
 Marymount University, Baltimore MD

### Selected collections: Over 150 private and public collections including:

University of Wisconsin, Madison UW-Stevens Point and UW-Platteville SUNY, Potsdam NY SUNY, Canton NY The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield CT General Instrument Corp., New York NY Prudential Life Insurance Co., Parsippany NJ Chemical Bank, New York NY NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority, NYC Kidder Peabody, New York NY White Plains Hospital, White Plains NY Merck & Co., West Point PA	The St. Paul Companies, St. Paul MN Meridian Bank, NJ Hale & Dorr, Boston, and Washington DC Suburban Cablevision, NJ ARA Corp., Philadelphia PA Barton Protective Services, Atlanta GA Seabury & Smith, New York NY Core States Bank, Philadelphia PA Goltz Associates, Bloomington MN Briggs and Morgan, Minneapolis MN Dollar Bill's, Chicago IL Houston Effler, Boston MA	Total System Services, Columbus GA MFS Investment Mgmt., Boston MA Baird & Co., Milwaukee WI Swett and Crawford Group, Irvine CA LaPlaya Beach Resort, Naples FL State Street Research, Boston MA Sears Merchandise Group, Chicago IL Piper Jaffray, Minneapolis MN G E Capital Mortgage, Cherry Hill NJ
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