



Swifts at Chapman School

After I felt I had done a truly thorough job of creating a Portland street scene series within my master plan of Oregon paintings, my girlfriend at the time Michelle kept suggesting this obvious last Portland staple. She lived in NW within walking distance of where these swarms of spiraling Vaux swifts congregate every September, and ironically I'd given her the nickname of "Little Birdie" because she had this little quirk of suddenly turning her head to face me while we sat on the couch watching a movie.

Despite this being the shortest time I have ever spent on a painting relative to its size, inking in the stuff on the ground was deceptively difficult and I needed two extra trips for the narrow window of time to get the colors in the sunset to my liking.