



Mount Angel Auto Werke

A year prior, when I was painting “Mount Angel Town Common” I had set up in between some junked cars in the Mount Angel Auto Werke lot. It’s owner saw me persevering through the cold March morning at work and suggested I use his heated office instead. I was most grateful, and when he saw the finished piece he commissioned this similar one of a view from further back that included his shop.

Most of Mount Angel’s original settlers were Bavarian German Catholics who wanted to keep it German themed, similar to where tourists visit Plymouth or Sturbridge Massachusetts. I found this to be mostly just on the outside architecture and a nuisance to some business owners there, and I highly suspect that “werke” is one of these contemporary conformities to the arcane building codes, But then again, could he really call it “Mount Angel Auto Arbeit” and expect stranded motorists to not donut tire their way on to Silverton or Woodburn?

I had never done a painting of an auto body shop, which to me was as exciting a project as when I transformed the Marquam Bridge in a previous painting, to see how much beauty was hiding in the dullness. Normally when there is a large panorama I use full sheet of paper but he wanted it this size, so there was not a lot of room for every single brick, so I had to focus more on getting the overall shapes of elements fitting together well. I usually draw all the things on the ground first before I paint in, but this time there were good feathery clouds and a sun dog so I put down my pen and took a quick detour with my brush. Hopefully I brightened up things so you can feel warmth of the sunny late October afternoon in the painting like I did. It is rare that I get ideal working conditions like this.