

	Artist Biography	Gallerie 505 505 Front Street Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii 96761 808.667.7932 • www.gallerie505.com
	Ryan McVay	



The path Ryan McVay has taken is an unconventional journey to success. In 1977, the modern surrealist is born in Oregon. Immediately, Ryan is recognized for his ability to draw and stay between the lines, even at the age of 3. Entering and winning many local drawing contests between the ages of 6 - 8 years of age, the amazing part is he would enter the teenage division because they had better prizes. He spent most of his afternoons playing down by the river near his house. Once he was in his mid childhood years, he would spend most of his time playing sports with his friends and drawing with any other free time.

Board sports were his next passion, building his own skate boards from scratch at the age of 7, and making his own wake board at 10 years old. He would go snow boarding every time he got the chance. Ryan later recognized that the visualization and focus it took to take these sports to the extreme level transferred directly to the artist's focus. So, years of dedication to extreme sports and the arts set the stage for Ryan's future.

Throughout his school career, Ryan was revered as one of the most rounded students anyone had ever experienced. Great at everything, even first attempts, High School was a palette of expression. In High School, his teachers would allow him to make the choice on his projects. Without hesitation, Ryan spent his last few years of school in the attic painting huge paintings. These paintings would later be displayed in the main office and library after Ryan graduated. Even his video project for a class was later played for years as a model of technique and style.

After Ryan's school years, he spent most of his time practicing art and board sports all over the Western United States. Working for ski resorts to acquire season passes, Ryan was on his way to becoming a professional snow boarder. Then, at the age of 19, he was introduced to scientific glass blowing. This new artistic medium took Ryan's love for the arts into a marketable product. With blown glass art backing his ventures in the snow, Ryan began competing and snowboarding full time. He became recognized as the best at everything he practiced, everywhere he lived, over the next 7 years. After a few snow boarding accidents, Ryan questioned the path of snowboarding and started focusing more on his art career. Ryan then packed his bags and took his skill to a Mecca of art and expression – Maui, Hawaii.

On Maui, Ryan focused specifically on his glass and painting media. Behind the scenes, no one was seeing his true passion, his paintings – the original series that started years before in Montana. It was not until the spring of 2008 when Ryan displayed his masterpieces for the first time in public – at *Gallerie 505* on Maui. As a self-taught artist in every medium, Ryan is shattering boundaries in all forms. Ryan says, *"If it was not for the intense focus that glass blowing gave me, I would never have advanced at painting while barely touching a canvas or brush."* Even though Ryan had spent nearly 2 decades painting, glass demanded his attention to keep his freedom alive. So, only when he had full artistic focus would he paint, yet now he is hanging up the torch and putting all his love into his paintings. Ryan McVay has the kind of Art that will live through the centuries and become extremely collectable.