Sheldon Tapley

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EDUCATION

1983 MFA, Printmaking and Painting; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska,

1980 BA, Art; Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1983- Stodghill Professor of Art, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky

AWARDS

2015	Kirk Award for Excellence in Teaching, Centre College
2005	Stodghill Professorship: A permanent endowed chair, Centre College
2004	Martha & Merrit deJong Memorial Artist-in-Residence, Evansville Museum, Indiana
2002	Cantrell Professorship: An endowed chair in art awarded by Centre College for three years
1998	Al Smith Fellowship; Kentucky Arts Council
1980	Phi Beta Kappa, Grinnell College

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020-21	Norton Center for The Arts	Danville, Kentucky
2020	Aegon Gallery, Centre College	Danville, Kentucky
2016	Lexington Art League	Lexington, Kentucky
2008	Center For Contemporary Art, Sacramento	Sacramento, California
2004	Evansville Museum	Evansville, Indiana
2003	Owensboro Museum of Fine Art	Owensboro, Kentucky
2002	Tatistcheff Gallery	New York, New York
1998	Tatistcheff Gallery	New York, New York
1996	Linda Schwartz Gallery	Lexington, Kentucky
1994	Linda Schwartz Gallery	Lexington, Kentucky
1992	Linda Schwartz Gallery	Lexington, Kentucky
1991	Harris Gallery	Houston, Texas
1991	Barucci Gallery	St. Louis, Missouri
1990	Norton Center For The Arts	Danville, Kentucky
1988	Harris Gallery	Houston, Texas
1986	Morehead State University	Morehead, Kentucky

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020	This is America*, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, Kentucky
	Zeuxis: My Studio, Robert & Elaine Stein Galleries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio
2019	The Sublime: Romantic Landscapes, Cincinnati Art Galleries, Cincinnati, Ohio
	Zeuxis: My Studio, First Street Gallery, New York, New York
	Zeuxis: My Studio, Alabama Center for The Arts, Decatur, Alabama
2018	Return To The Garden, Cincinnati Art Galleries, Cincinnati, Ohio
	UNL Alumni Exhibition, Eisentrager-Howard Gallery, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln,
	Nebraska
2017	Fresh Paint Biennial, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio
	State of Time, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky
2017	Sketch, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio
	Way of The Land: The Farm Story, Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, Owensboro, Kentucky
	Circa 1957, Lexington Art League, Lexington, Kentucky

Nude, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio *Pause*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio

GROUP EXHIBITIONS – continued Drawn 2017, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio 2017 Zeuxis: The Unstilllife, The Painting Center, New York, New York; University of Mississippi Museum, Oxford, Mississippi; Windgate Art & Design, Fort Smith, Arkansas Kentucky Regional Showcase, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Demographically Speaking, Lexington Art League, Lexington, Kentucky Zeuxis: Flowers as Metaphor, Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, California 2016 Kentucky Visions at The Capitol 50/50, Kentucky State Capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky Zeuxis: Flowers As Metaphor, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, California Delaware College of Art and Design, Wilmington, Delaware Zeuxis: Beyond the Window, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi The 20, Lexington Art League, Lexington, Kentucky Norton Center, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky 2015 Zeuxis: Beyond the Window, Bowery Gallery, New York, New York Hogue Gallery, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma Potter Gallery, Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut Tapped 6, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio State of Drawing, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky New Year, New Art, Community Arts Center, Danville, Kentucky 2014 Drawn 2014, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Artist in Residence: 20 Years of Collaboration, Evansville Museum, Evansville, Indiana National Contemporary Realism 2014, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma Tapped 5, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Zeuxis: Still, Blue, First Street Gallery, New York, New York Zeuxis: Still, Blue, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Annapolis, Maryland UnCommon Wealth, Kentucky Arts Council touring exhibition, Lexington, Kentucky and other Kentucky Nude 6, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio New Year, New Art 2014, Community Arts Center, Danville, Kentucky 2013 Kentucky Visions at the Capitol, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky Faculty Exhibition, Aegon Gallery, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky Faces and Figures, Artisans Enterprise Center, Covington, Kentucky National Contemporary Realism 2013, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma Fast Forward To The Renaissance, The Southern Ohio Museum, Portsmouth, Ohio 2012 National Contemporary Realism 2012, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma Tapped 3, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Nude 4, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Beyond the Still Life, Cincinnati Art Galleries, Cincinnati, Ohio Kentucky Visions at the Capitol, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky 2011 National Contemporary Realism 2011, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma Tapped 2, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio Observed, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio State of Drawing, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky 2010 Kentucky Visions at the Capitol, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky National Contemporary Realism, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma 2009 30th Anniversary Celebration Show, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma

GROUP EXHIBITIONS – continued Visions: The James Dyke Collection of Contemporary Drawings, 2008 Naples Museum of Art, Naples, Florida, Naples Florida Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas 2006 Artists At And After Grinnell, Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College, Iowa Gallery Artists (December), Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York 2005 Gallery Artists (September), Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York Annual Collector's Exhibition, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas Dances of Death, Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York The Ever-Changing Landscape, Kentucky Museum of Art+Design, Louisville, Kentucky All About Drawing, Eisentrager Howard Gallery, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 2004 Contemporary American Realism VI, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma 2003 2002 Annual Collector's Exhibition, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas 2001 Gallery Artists, Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York Contemporary American Realism IV, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma 2000 Gallery Artists, Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York Contemporary American Realism III, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1999 Summer Group & Introductions, Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York Regional Artists in the Collection, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, Kentucky Contemporary American Realism II, M. A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1998 Annual Collector's Exhibition, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas Summertime, Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, New York Something New Under the Sun: Recent Acquisitions, Univ. of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, Kentucky Annual Collector's Exhibition, Arkansas Center for Contemporary Art, Little Rock, Arkansas 1997 1995 59th Annual Midyear Exhibition, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio In Kentucky: Senses of Place, Morlan Gallery, Lexington, Kentucky 1994 Gallery Artists, Harris Gallery, Houston, Texas 1993 Group 5, Galbreath Gallery, Lexington, Kentucky Realism Today, Evansville Museum, Evansville, Indiana 1992 New Talent in Charlotte, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, North Carolina 55th Annual Midvear Exhibition, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio 1991 Four Point Perspective, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, Kentucky. 1990 Pastel, Headley-Whitney Museum, Lexington, Kentucky The Garden, Harris Gallery, Houston, Texas 1989 Kentucky to Ecuador: Recent Works by 50 Kentucky Artists, Casa de la Cultura, American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador Drawn From Life, Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, Texas 1988 1987 The Kentuckians, National Arts Club, New York, New York Winter Gallery, Headley-Whitney Museum, Lexington, Kentucky Water Tower Annual Exhibition, Water Tower Art Association, Louisville, Kentucky 1984 46th Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Painting, Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, Florida

JURIED & INVITATIONAL EXHIBITIONS IN PRINT & ONLINE

- 2020 International Drawing Annual, Vol. 13. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - Drawing Today: 36 International Artists, Invitational. Carretta Art Advisory. Link
- 2019 International Drawing Annual, Vol. 12. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2014 International Drawing Annual, Vol. 9. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2013 International Painting Annual, Vol. 3. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio...
- 2012 International Drawing Annual, Vol. 7. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2011 International Painting Annual, Vol. 1. Awarded Third Prize. Juried. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- New American Paintings, Vol. 3. Fifty southeastern artists, curator: Jack Cowart. Open Studios Press, Spring.

EXHIBITION CATALOGS

- 2020 *Sheldon Tapley: Painter and Draftsman*, illustrated catalog for two exhibitions at Centre College; Aegon Gallery and Norton Center for the Arts.
- 2007 *Visions: Selections from the James T. Dyke Collection of Contemporary Drawings*, illustrated catalog with essay by Townsend Wolfe. Published by Arkansas Art Center & Naples Museum of Art.
- 2004 *Sheldon Tapley*, essay by John Streetman, Director, The Evansville Museum of Art, History and Science, in a catalog published by the museum to accompany a solo exhibition of the same title. April.
- Natural Collections, essay by Rachel Sadinsky, Curator, The University of Kentucky Art Museum, in a catalog published by Linda Schwartz Gallery.

PRESS

- 2021 Burnaway, "This is America* at UK Art Museum, Lexington," Exhibition review by Natalie Weis. Link
- 2020 Under Main, "Review: This is America* at UK Art Museum," by Kevin Nance. Link
- 2017 Aeqai, "Got to Draw: 'Drawn: 4th Annual International Exhibition of Contemporary Drawing' at Manifest Gallery, April 21-May 19, 2017." July/August issue. Link.
- The Artist's Magazine, "Master of the Not-So-Still-Life", by Daniel Brown. Feature article in print, with web supplement. May. Re-published online in June, in Aeqai.com; noted and linked in Painter's Table, a national art blog.
- 2008 New Old Masters, exhibition review in The Sacramento Bee, by Victoria Dalkey, March.
- 2005 Kentucky Homes and Gardens Magazine, "Magical Believability", an illustrated feature article by Cynthia Rush, Nov-Dec 2005.
- 2001 Tulsa World. "'American Realism' Exhibit seeks the Dreams Beneath the Surface".
- 2000 New American Paintings, Volume 28, Open Studios Press. Selected by Charlotte Kurik, Curator of Contemporary Art, The Brooklyn Museum of Art.
- 1999 *American Artist* magazine, "Where Past and Present Meet", by Bill Creevy. Cover illustration and illustrated feature article. November.
- 1998 *The New Yorker*, review in "Goings on About Town". October 19.
- 1994 Lexington Herald Leader. "Tapley's Landscapes are Visions of Poetic Grandeur," exhibition review by Michael Holdren, October 9.
- 1990 *Lexington Herald Leader*. "Pastel Exhibit Shows Mediums Versatility," exhibition review by David Minton, October 16.
 - Dialogue, "Sheldon Tapley: Paintings and Pastels," Jane Wilson Joyce, November/December issue.

TELEVISION

2001 Looking at Painting. A KET video production, by Robert Tharsing and Guy Mendes.

2019 Kentucky Life. A KET video production, by Tom Thurman (planned release for later 2019).

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Aegon Corporation

Louisville, Kentucky

Ale-8-One Bottling Company

Winchester, Kentucky

Art Center of the Bluegrass

Danville, Kentucky

Pollog Toyog

Bank One Dallas, Texas

Brown-Forman Corporation

Capital Holding Corporation

Central Bank and Trust

Louisville, Kentucky

Lexington, Kentucky

Centre College Danville, Kentucky
Columbia Gas Lexington, Kentucky
Compaq Computer Houston, Texas
Enterprise Leasing St. Louis, Missouri

James T. Dyke Collection of Contemporary DrawingsLittle Rock, ArkansasErnst and Young, Inc.St. Louis, MissouriEthicon-Endo SurgeryBlue Ash, Ohio

Evansville Museum
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa
Fidelity Investments
Cincinnati, Ohio
Hilliard and Lyons
Houston Industries
Evansville, Indiana
Crinnell, Iowa
Cincinnati, Ohio
Houston, Texas

Jewish Hospital Louisville, Kentucky Kentucky Clinic Lexington, Kentucky

Louisville Gas and Electric Louisville, Kentucky
Methodist Hospital Houston, Texas
Moody Gardens Galveston, Texas

Morehead State College Morehead, Kentucky
Nations Bank Charlotte, North Carolina

Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts

Owensboro, Kentucky

Pikeville National Bank
Providian Corporation
Louisville, Kentucky
Prudential Life Insurance
Ralston Puring Corporation
St. Louis Missouri

Ralston-Purina Corporation
St. Louis, Missouri
Scripps-Howard
Cincinnati, Ohio
Summit Funding
San Antonio, Texas
Trenton State College
Trenton, New Jersey
University of Kentucky Art Museum
Lexington, Kentucky

Vencor Louisville, Kentucky

WRITING PUBLISHED

2016 "Ask The Experts." *The Artist's Magazine*, March 2016.

"Ask The Experts." *The Artist's Magazine*, November 2014.

WRITING PUBLISHED – continued

- "Gaela Erwin: My Mother, My Sister, Myself." *Aeqai.* 3 March 2013. Web magazine. Exhibition review of a show at the Lexington Art League.
- 2012 One.2 The Manifest Prize; exhibition catalog essay about the prize-winning painting in a show for which I was one of the jurors. The show includes works by the winner and finalists who competed for the annual Manifest Prize. Manifest Gallery. December.
 - "Samson and Delilah." *Aeqai*. 23 January 2012. Web magazine. An essay on a painting by Peter Paul Rubens in the Cincinnati Art Museum. 2011
 - "Narrative Figuration." *Aeqai*. Exhibition review of a group show at the Weston Gallery Cincinnati, Ohio. Chosen by the Huffington Post as one of the Top Ten best reviews in country in May. http://aeqai.com/main/2011/05/narrative-figuration/

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & LECTURES

- Juror for *The Object Seen*, exhibition at Art Centre of the Bluegrasss, Danville, Kentucky.
- 2019 Lunch With The Arts, Art Center of The Bluegrass, Danville, Kentucky; presentation about my painting recently acquired for the permanent collection of that institution.
- Danville-Boyle County Library; Address at unveiling of my painting Reflection, Boyle County, donated in honor of Katherine Spragens.
- Demonstrated portrait painting from life at "A Figure Study," a fundraising event for the Lexington Art League.
 - Donated a drawing for auction to support Casa of the Bluegrass, raising twelve hundred dollars for the organization, which provides advocates for abused children.
- Visiting Artist and Critic, University of Mississippi, March 16-17, 2015. Demonstrated portrait painting from life, lectured on my art, gave critiques to graduate and undergraduate students.
 - Organized the premiere exhibition of the touring show: Zeuxis: Beyond The Window, at the Norton Center of Centre College. Spoke at the opening reception.
- Invited to join Zeuxis, an association of still life painters, founded in New York City, 1994. Zeuxis exhibitions have appeared in over 50 commercial galleries, museums, and college exhibition spaces across the country. Shows have been reviewed in The New York Times, American Artist Magazine, The New York Observer, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and numerous other publications.
- Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop VII, a 4-day event for 46 students, alumni & guest artists. Participants came from seven states. June.
 - Juror for ONE.4: The Manifest Prize, a juried exhibition of contemporary painting, conducted by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - Juror for TAPPED 4, a juried exhibition of art by student-teacher pairs, conducted by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop VI, a 4-day event for 46 students, alumni & guest artists. Participants came from seven states. June.
 - Hosted David Kassan, a convocation speaker and Visiting Artist. He visited Danville for two days, gave a convocation lecture about his art, a three-hour portrait drawing demonstration, and individual 30-minute critiques to nine art majors concentrating on painting and drawing. I invited Mr. Kassan, an internationally renowned painter and teacher, and organized the funding and schedule for his visit.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & LECTURES – continued

Lecture on my work at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven

Juror for ONE.3: The Manifest Prize, a juried exhibition of contemporary painting, conducted by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop V, a 4-day event for 29 students, alumni & guest artists. Participants came from six states. May.

Juror for International Painting Annual 2, a major publication of contemporary painting, published 2012 by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Juror for ONE.2: The Manifest Prize, a juried exhibition of contemporary painting, conducted by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Hosted Alex Kanevsky, a convocation speaker and Visiting Artist. He visited Danville for two days, gave a convocation lecture about his art, and individual 30-minute critiques to senior art majors concentrating on painting and drawing. I invited Mr. Kanevsky and organized the funding and schedule for his visit. He is an internationally renowned painter and teacher.

Speaker at Danville Rotary Club, July.

Assisted Judith Jia (Director of the Aegon Gallery) in organizing and installing The Drawing League, a group show of artists from Cincinnati, with whom I have close ties. December.

Hosted Daniel O'Connor, Visiting Artist, who gave a lecture and did individual critiques for senior art majors concentrating on painting and drawing. November.

Juror, Horizons, Danville Community Art Center; a competitive group exhibition of contemporary landscape. September.

Organized a day trip to visit three artist's studios in Cincinnati; 10 students participated. September.

Visiting Critic at New York Academy of Art. Gave individual critiques to ten MFA students. March.

Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop IV, a 4-day event for 28 students, alumni & guest artists. Participants came from six states. May.

Judge, Great American Brass Band Festival Poster Contest, Danville. May.

Hosted Boris Zakic, Visiting Artist, who gave a lecture on his art and did individual critiques for senior art majors concentrating on painting and drawing. April.

Lunch for the Arts, Danville Community Art Center. Presented several works and spoke. February.

Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop III, a 4-day event for 23 students, alumni & guest artists.

Hosted two Visiting Artists on campus, Alan Feltus and Lani Irwin. They visited Danville for 2-1/2 days, gave convocation lectures about their art, met classes, and gave individual critiques to senior art majors concentrating on painting and drawing. Both are internationally renowned painters.

Gallery Talk, Center For Contemporary Art, Sacramento, at solo exhibition of my work Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop II, a 4-day event for 22 students, alumni & guest artists.

Director, Centre Life Drawing & Painting Residential Workshop I, a 4-day event for 11 students, alumni & guest artists.

Taught one-week workshop on pastels at Evansville Museum in Indiana.

Spoke to University of Kentucky Donovan Scholars, a continuing education group visiting my studio.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & LECTURES – continued

1999	Inside the Palace of Memory: Looking at Tom Chapin's Sculpture; gallery talk, Aegon Gallery, Centre College.
	Exhibition juror at Lexington Art League: Feed Your Head: Food as Subject and Metaphor.
1998	Exhibition juror at Lexington Art League: Masters of Maturity.
1997	Outside tenure reviewer for Kalamazoo art faculty
1996	Gallery Talk, Linda Schwartz Gallery, in conjunction with solo exhibition.
1990	The Art of Still Life, lecture at Owensboro Museum of Fine Art in connection with the exhibition Shared
	Treasures: Masterworks from the Evansville Museum of Arts & Science. One of my
	paintings was loaned to the show from the Evansville Museum.
	Taught 2-day workshop at the St. Louis Art Guild, on landscape drawing using soft pastels.
	Lecture on my work at the University of Kentucky Faculty Club.
1995	Taught two-day landscape pastel workshop at the Lexington Art League.
1994	Taught two-day landscape pastel workshop at the Louisville Visual Art Association.
1993	Lecture and demonstration of all major printmaking processes for education staff of the University of
	Kentucky Art Museum.
1991	Judged Annual Members Exhibit of the St. Louis Art Guild.
1989-93	Judged state finals in art of the Sweet Sixteen Academic Showcase.
1988	Taught five-day summer seminar for Centre College humanities faculty introducing fundamental design
	issues and studio processes
1987	Co-directed four video programs on printmaking processes for the University of Kentucky Art
	Museum; lecture at the museum to introduce videos to the staff.
	Participated in five-day seminar on teaching Homer's Iliad in translation; sponsored by Centre College

and the NEH.

Visiting Artist at the Hite Art Institute of the University of Louisville; class critique, slide lecture.

BIOGRAPHY

Sheldon Tapley revitalizes, indeed, electrifies the still life genre by combining aspects of contemporary life with painterly constructs derived from the history of Western art.

Daniel Brown, Master of the Not-So-Still Still Life, The Artist's Magazine, May 2012.

Distinguished New York gallerist Peter Tatistcheff described the paintings of Sheldon Tapley as having "a magical believability". The artist's exhibitions at Tatistcheff Gallery established him as painter of national reputation, whose art is in public and private collections across the country. His works have been reviewed in The New Yorker, and published with major articles in American Artist, and The Artist's Magazine.

"Tapley masterfully blends the discipline of a hard-earned classical technique with a vision that is thoroughly modern and personal," wrote Bill Creevy in *American Artist*. The artist's pastel, *Jury Rig*, was on the cover of the magazine. Kentucky Educational Television featured the artist in the 2002 documentary series *Looking at Painting*, directed by artists Robert Tharsing and Guy Mendes. In that show, Tapley was filmed at work in his studio and at the Speed Museum in Louisville, discussing a still life painting by Cézanne. Tapley's art was more recently featured in a 2019 episode of the KET show, *Kentucky Life*.

Museum solo exhibitions of Tapley's art have been presented by The Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, and The Evansville Museum. His paintings and drawings have been shown at public institutions across the country, including The Naples Museum of Art, The Arkansas Arts Center, University of Kentucky Art Museum, The Southern Ohio Museum, Manifest Gallery, and Grinnell College, his alma mater. Tapley is an exhibiting member of Zeuxis, a select association of still life painters who curate touring shows for museums and universities.

The artist has been represented by commercial galleries nationwide: Tatistcheff in New York City; Harris Gallery in Houston, Texas; Linda Schwartz Gallery in Lexington, Kentucky; Jerald Melburg Gallery in Charlotte, North Carolina; M.A. Doran Gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Cincinnati Art Galleries in Ohio. Harris Gallery and Linda Schwartz Gallery presented the earliest solo exhibitions of Tapley's art.

Tapley was honored as the Martha & Merrit de Long Memorial Artist-in-Residence at The Evansville Museum. The Kentucky Arts Council awarded him an Al Smith Fellowship. At Centre College, he has been awarded the Kirk Prize for excellence in teaching, the Cantrell Endowed Professorship, and the Stodghill Endowed Professorship.

Centre College, where the artist has taught throughout his career, is a premier undergraduate institution with an outstanding art program. He often paints and draws alongside his students in the studio. "Working with students, seeing their skill, creativity, and confidence grow, is very rewarding. I stay in touch with many alumni. It is a great pleasure watching their careers develop."

Tapley's home is in Danville, Kentucky. He was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in 1959, to British parents, and raised in Europe and North America.