



Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)

Matt Patterson — acrylic on vellum illustration board 14" x 42"

Matt Patterson grew up in a small town in New Hampshire, USA. His father was a high school biology teacher, and from an early age Matt was exposed to many different species of animals. As far back as he can remember, he has always had the same two interests: wildlife and art. Today he is a professional illustrator and his work reflects these these passions.

In 2003 Matt graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a BA in Studio Art. In 2006 he received a professional certificate in illustration from the Art Institute of Boston (AIB).

Since graduating in 2006 from AIB, Matt has completed projects ranging from scientific illustration used for posters and books to product illustration. His work has been exhibited nationally. Matt is also a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. The Common Snapping Turtle painting shown here is currently being exhibited in their members' show.

In 2009, Matt accepted his first contract to illustrate a book for the University Press of New England titled *Freshwater Fish of the Northeast*. This book contains a total of 61 species of freshwater fish. Matt enjoyed many fishing outings in order to gather references needed to complete the illustrations. The book was

released in the spring of 2010 and won the National Outdoor Book Award the same year in the artistic merit category.

Matt works in a variety of different mediums ranging from wood carving to digital painting. However, his preferred medium and the majority of his work is completed using acrylic paints. His process first starts with gathering references and other pertinent information on the subjects. He then completes several rough sketches. Once he chooses a composition, he does a pencil drawing on illustration board. Matt works with washes initially and then builds up the layers of paint from thin to thick using acrylics. Often times, he tones the paper or illustration board he is using with coffee prior to painting. This tone gives the illustration a unique texture.

Currently, Matt is illustrating a book on reptiles and amphibians found in the Northeast of North America. Matt is excited about this project and looks forward to its completion.

For information on artwork or commissions, contact Matt at mpatter3@gmail.com or visit www.mpattersonart.com. Artwork is also available for sale at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/StoneridgeArtStudios>.