

Michael Mantell grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. As a boy, he attended the Cleveland Museum of Art and as a teenager, the Cleveland Institute of Art, where he took classes in figure drawing and painting. He went on to study at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York earning a B.F.A.

For many years he worked as a mechanical drawing and paste-up artist at such places as Columbia Records, Esquire Magazine and Push Pin Studios. He continued his figure drawing and painting studies at the Art Students League, where he was a student of noted Abstract-expressionist painter Richard Pousette-Dart. His influence led to a more fluid, physical way of working.

He also became an avid reader of science books written for the layman. It was a habit (he found out later) of Kandinsky's, who said he wanted to "understand the physical to get to the metaphysical." Mantell continues to draw from the figure and nature, whose processes and forms find their way into his paintings. He lives and works in Los Angeles.