

P R I N C I P L E G A L L E R Y

About the Artist: David Hettinger

Born in 1946 in Aurora, Illinois, David Hettinger began drawing around the age of 8. His subjects were TV and movie cowboys. At the age of 13, Mike Spencer, a local artist who ran the barbershop across from Hettinger's middle school, gave him a set of oil paints.

His formal art training began at the American Academy of Art in Chicago under Joseph vanden Brouck. Under Mr. Wan, as he was called, Hettinger learned classical realism and the techniques of the Flemish, Dutch, and Spanish Masters. After four years at the academy, Hettinger moved to New York City where he studied with David Leffel and Richard Schmid. During his two years in Leffel's studio he painted still-lives and figures, always working from live models. He learned the importance of working from life from Schmid and Leffel and to this day attends life drawing sketch groups twice a week to keep his drawing skills fine-tuned.

Since beginning his career as a professional artist he has had 21 solo exhibitions in galleries across the country. He is a master signature member of Oil Painters of America. He has won awards for his landscapes, still-lives and figurative paintings. His work has been reviewed in American Artist Magazine 1993, The Artist Magazine 2003 and International Artist 2004.

In the Artist's Words...

"My thing is painting and drawing, it's all I do. Drawing the human figure is my passion. Not sure how old I was when I first began to draw; I give different ages when asked the question. I know I was quite young and I know my interest in drawing people was also something that I possessed at an early age. Drawing cowboys from the TV was a start, and then people in the neighborhood became an interest for me. These days I hire models so that I can draw and paint from life in my studio. The human figure is still my main interest and getting to know the people I paint has become part of the process. In order for me to truly capture a figure I need to know the person I am painting. Over the years I have met some fascinating models at sketch groups

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and have been lucky enough to collaborate with them over periods spanning years. It is my preference to work with a particular individual for as long as possible, so personality becomes just as important as the physical figure.”