

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

## *About the Artist: Richard Murdock*

“My work incorporates disparate elements that can be, at first, confusing. I begin with visual effects, contrasts in color and form, and the rhythm and patterns created by shapes. Then I might contrast this with the linear horizon of an almost infinite landscape. Finally, close-up the assemblage appears monumental, almost surreal, like a Magritte or a Dali. But my intent is not to be humorous or clever, in the same way as these artists, but to offer a sort of meditation on forms and colors removed from their literal associations.

These paintings challenge the still life genre altogether. But many categories of art are loose, incorporating landscapes, figures and objects. In this work, I am influenced both by Giuseppe Arcimboldo and late 19th century symbolism. Here, I intend to evoke another world. Yet the objects are specific, allowing the viewer to focus on the particular. In this contrast between the real and the imagined, the familiar and the strange, one can linger in ways that are impossible with the fleeting nature of dreams.”

- Richard Murdock

Richard Murdock was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1953 and he was educated in painting as well as drawing at Pratt Institute located in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Pratt Institute from 1971 until 1976. Murdock later held an apprenticeship with Texas based realist painter, Graydon Parrish, from 2007 until 2009. Working primarily with figures and still lifes, Murdock has made a distinguished name for himself worldwide. He has been featured in numerous art-related periodicals such as, *American Art Collector* and *American Artist*. One of his most noteworthy collectors is Dan Brown, the author of *The Da Vinci Code*.

Murdock has always been attracted to beautiful, simple, and natural things, but as virtual cultures are rapidly growing, the artist has found himself inspired by old and new imagery. He says; “My mind swirls with images of old masters and contemporary art, classical and pop cultures.” Murdock is focused on maintaining the traditional while embracing new ideas.

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**Education:**

1971-1976 Painting and Drawing, Pratt Institute

2007-2009 Apprenticeship with Graydon Parrish