

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Southwest Art

THE COLLECTOR'S CHOICE

for **40** YEARS

40
PROMINENT
PEOPLE
IN THE WESTERN
ART WORLD

MAY 2011



US \$6.99



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Display until May 23, 2011

www.southwestart.com

California Art Club

Peter Adams, President

Distinction: The club has made significant contributions to the revival of interest in traditional, representational painting and sculpture.

What has been the biggest change you've seen in the art world during your career?

When I became an artist in 1978, traditional realist art was not even on the map in the art world. Now it has achieved a foothold in Southern California's art establishment.

How do you think the CAC has contributed to appreciation for traditional art over the years?

The club presents more than 20 exhibitions each year. And our quarterly newsletter, which is 32 pages long and printed in color, has been our best ambassador.

What do you hope the organization accomplishes in the next 10 years?

I would like to see the club provide more programs for painting, drawing, and sculpting, as well as develop a first-rate fine art school. Also, I want the club to have a hand in training future art writers and journalists.

Describe the organization in one word.

Friendly.

What is your most memorable moment in the club?

I was at a paint-out with about 25 artists, painting the scene from Wagner's opera *Götterdämmerung*, where Siegfried is enticed by three Rhine maidens to throw the ring back into the Rhine. We were painting at a big manmade waterfall in downtown Los Angeles. It was hot, and the models asked me to turn on the water switch that would spray them gently. I went back to the control room and fooled around with a few buttons, and at first everything worked perfectly. The models were getting sprinkled by a gentle mist. Within minutes, however, the mist became a torrent. The water raged over us and propelled us over the falls. Siegfried with his armor got all tangled up with the screaming Rhine maidens, and the dumbstruck artists were cascaded headlong in a flurry of brushes, palettes, and easels. All of us gasped for air



Peter Adams (middle) with artists David Gallup (left) and Taylor Montague (right).

as we swam to save our lives.

How do you think *Southwest Art* magazine has contributed to the success of the club and its members?

It is impossible to overstate the importance that *Southwest Art* has had to our artists and organization. *Southwest Art* was the first magazine to champion traditional, representational fine art in the modern era. The magazine carried the torch alone for many years and practically single-handedly built the western art market. We thank *Southwest Art* for leading the way.



Jeremy Lipking

Painter • Agoura Hills, CA

Distinction: Lipking is a young leader in the resurgence of traditional art in California.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the art world during your career? Since I started about 10 years ago, there are many more figure painters, and the figure in art has become much more popular.

Where do you find inspiration? I can find inspiration in almost anything and almost anywhere, from light reflecting in a puddle of mud to a big Sierra peak. Sometimes an idea for a painting starts with a color or the way two colors harmonize. I'll design a whole painting around those two colors. The subject isn't always the "spark," it's just a vehicle to say what I want to say in the visual language of representational art.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 10 years? I hope to keep growing as an artist and maybe paint some masterpieces, although the perfect painting always seems to be a little out of reach. But that's what keeps us painting with passion. If we ever did a painting we thought was a masterpiece, we could quit painting and relax.

How do you define success? Success in a work of art is when I've said what I want to say almost perfectly. It's when the work is almost as good as it looked in my mind when I started.

Describe yourself in one word. Indescribable.

How do you think you have helped contribute to a revival of interest in traditional art in California? Maybe I have inspired some-



Skylar in Black, oil, 36 x 22.

one to take up painting who will become a modern-day master. I have always been generous with my knowledge. Hopefully, by sharing information I've learned from years of trial, I can save a person who is just beginning a lot of time in the learning process.

People would be surprised to learn that ... I started as a landscape painter.

How has *Southwest Art* contributed to

your career? I think the first magazine article I was in was *Southwest Art's* 21 Under 31 story. It might have even been the first of those annual stories. Or it might have been the Artist to Watch column. Either way I'm pretty sure *Southwest Art* was the first place I ever saw my art printed in a magazine. So I guess you can say that my art career started in *Southwest Art*.