

MICHAEL FLOHR

TODAY'S

TOP ARTISTS

NAMED TOP ARTIST FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!

BORN IN: San Diego

STYLE/MEDIUM: Contemporary Impressionism in Oil on Canvas

GREATEST ARTISTIC INFLUENCE: Wife

YEARS IN THE BUSINESS: 7+

STUDIO LOCATION: San Diego

MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED PIECE: "Good Times Square"

MOST RECENT GALLERY SHOW: Phillips Gallery, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif.

OTHER NEWS:

- August 2008 debut of Flohr's collectors book, "CITY EXPRESSIONS"
- European Art Tour in January 2009
- Chosen as the official artist of the San Diego ARTWALK
- Release of first bronze sculpture to be unveiled at Artexpo New York 2009



As a two-year Top Artist, what do you believe has been your greatest artistic achievement to date?

My greatest achievement is being able to support my family and provide a comfortable lifestyle for us in San Diego by doing what I love for a living.

Which subject matter do you most enjoy painting?

I enjoy painting restaurants, cityscapes and high-contrast night scenes because these are places that show where people let down their guards and enjoy their time. These subjects tell

stories of people, places, mood and life. Those are the things that I observe, and they strike me.



"Fontaines," oil on canvas



"Ciao Bella," oil on canvas

How did you come to realize your unique artistic style?

I started paring down my brushwork into short, quick strokes one day for fun. Just playing around to see what would happen, I was perhaps inspired by some of the European stained glass and mosaic works. Other than that, I can't really say how I arrived at my current style. It was just serendipity, I guess. When you can't really explain how you got your style, and you are not emulating some one else's style, that is when you know it is unique and you've arrived upon something remarkable.



"When in Rome," oil on canvas



"Martini Lounge," oil on canvas

"Dynamics are imparted to us as we stand in front of a work of art that are hard to put into words—small things, triggers, things that make us mindful of our own agendas and experiences."

— Michael Flohr

Describe your passion for capturing everyday life.

I have greedy eyes. Sometimes I can't just enjoy being in the moment; I have to figure out what colors I would use to translate this scene onto canvas. My wife will say to me, "Slow down. Just relax, and enjoy the moment like the people in your paintings." I really like watching people enjoying themselves. Life is so short; I just want to capture it and record it on canvas to prove that those moments existed.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

I plan on working on depictions of very exaggerated panoramic events, or slices of a scene that hint at a bigger event. I am going to try pushing the limits of traditional canvas proportions and palette color even further than my norm. I'm thinking long thin horizontal canvases. Additionally, sculpture has always been a hidden passion of mine. I'd like to explore that medium a little more as an alternate way of translating the scenes. I am always striving to be a step ahead of the creative curve.

What does an established artist like yourself work on to improve technique?

In order to improve, you have to be willing to take risks, but you also have to remember to stay humble. Additionally, keeping your ears open to advice is also very important.

Have you been experimenting with any new styles, mediums or techniques?

Yes, always. I've been scraping into the canvas more and exposing some of the raw texture under the thick, gooey brushstrokes that I traditionally use. I'm also working on a series of sculptures to be released sometime in the future.

How would you describe your work?

My work is contemporary Impressionism of restaurants, cafes, bars and street scenes. It's a modern take on the established Impressionistic style. I break down the impression of what I see into really loose brushstrokes and capture the scene with very unorthodox colors. Perhaps my work is a style I've created, or perhaps it is a result of my poor eyesight that lends itself to my work.

What challenges have you overcome throughout your years in the business?

I have found that working in the art industry has provided me with a very fortunate challenge. Keeping up with the demand from galleries and collectors while still balancing my home life has been challenging, especially with two beautiful boys, Emmet and Everett, and my "Lady in Red" or, depending on her mood, my "Mel at the Bar."