

Dennis Zieminski

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The palm-lined avenues, the snow capped desert peaks, the beaches, the vineyards and hills with the crisp California light and its intensely clear contrasts, have all contributed to the art of Dennis Zieminski in some way.

A native San Franciscan, Dennis graduated cum laude from the California College of Arts and Crafts. Interest in representational drawing and painting eventually led him to New York and a successful career in illustration. His paintings and illustrations have been in many one-man and group exhibitions and have won numerous awards. Dennis is known internationally for his work with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times. His compelling poster images include Super Bowl XXIX, Sonoma Salute to the Arts, the Napa Valley Mustard Festival, the California Bear Flag Sesquicentennial and Mankas Inverness Lodge. His paintings are featured on many well-known book covers including, "Tales of the City" and "Baby Cakes" by Armisted Maupin, "Glitz" and "Bandits" by Elmore Leonard and several covers for author James Lee Burke. Dennis was the featured cover artist for "Hemispheres" magazine for United Airlines.

Dennis' strong and richly colored images borrow much of their inspiration from early 20th century painting and posters. His early influences, Tom Purvis and Ludwig Hohlwein, were master designers in composition. The demands of illustration and poster design, with its simplified, sculpturally rendered images, gave Dennis the discipline and draftsmanship that give strength to his paintings today.

Dennis was selected as the Official Artist of the 2006 Kentucky Derby. His painting, "Out in Front", featured a thoroughbred and jockey with the winning number 8.

Dennis turned his attention to fine art in 1999 when continuous requests of his original images were made and private paintings were commissioned. Now, unencumbered by unrealistic deadlines, Dennis paints in oils. The major influences in his paintings are Maynard Dixon, Frank Brangwyn, Ernest Blumenschein, Edward Hopper and Maurice Logan... ironically, all were illustrators, at one time, during their art careers.

A member of the Oil Painters of America, the California Art Club and New York Society of Illustrators, Dennis has participated in several annual juried plein air events, winning Best of Show in the 2006 Annual Point Reyes Plein Air competition. His work was recently included in the show "Grand Canyon: From Dream to Icon" at the Tucson Museum of Art. He was also chosen as the 2004 signature artist for the Annual Wine Label Series at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art. Dennis has taught at the California College of the Arts, and the Academy of Art in San Francisco.

Traveling as frequently as he can, Dennis has found it to be a completely essential tool for developing different palettes, ideas and for tuning up sensibilities. "I love to paint my native California and the West but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject... it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture; creating the desire to 'be there'."

Currently, Dennis is working on commissioned paintings, gallery shows and murals. Examples of this can be seen at the J. Mark Sublette Medicine Man Gallery in Tucson, AZ and Santa Fe, NM, Knowlton Gallery in Lodi, CA, Altamira Fine Art in Jackson Hole, WY, Michael Hollis Fine Art, Pasadena, CA.

He resides in Glen Ellen with his wife Anne and their daughter Sofia, who attends the University of Redlands.