

November 15, 2001 Issue

On Being a Luminist



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I wish we had more holidays like this! Not only do we get to be with family and good friends, but we have a chance to really think about the things we are thankful for. Like you, I am grateful: To be an American.

To have good health.

To be able to do what I do and to earn a living doing it.

I am thankful for good friends, wise advisers, a loving family and a supportive art community.

To be living in the Pacific Northwest with its wonderful ambient light.

Being close to grand children who are delightful, natural models for my portrait work.

I am grateful to the founding fathers of this great nation who put together a strong and enduring pattern for the world, for the pilgrims and patriots, for the pioneers who opened up the country and spent their lives making it better for all of us. Freedom, Hope and Generosity emanate from this great nation.

God bless America.

Next Issue: A Classic Seascape

As long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by light and shadow. I grew up on an old fashioned farm with orchards and sheds and a large barn. By day I observed the dappled patterns created by sunlight shining through leafy apple trees.

“the illumination from kerosene lamps made glowing colors dance”

By night the illumination from kerosene lamps made glowing colors dance on faces, walls and furniture. Kerosene lanterns were hung high in strategic places in the cow barn during milking time.

When I began my career as an artist, these ingrained impressions influenced how I used color to indicate this luminous light. My seascapes have been described as being "lit from within". I had no idea then that what I was doing was to be described as "Luminist" painting. A Luminist is, (as you may well have presumed by the name) one who uses the illusion of light to create paintings that glow. Since this technique was a "natural" for me, I didn't recognize this as a special style of painting until a respected artist and teacher pointed it out to me. He referred to the "Luminist School of painting". I was delighted that my way of creating glowing light in my work had a name!

“It is in my oils, my gouache paintings, my watercolors, my pastel work!”

LUMINIST! Luminism! It is in my

oils, my gouache paintings, my watercolors, my pastel work! It is in my life. I still observe the sunlight and shadows. I still watch for light to caress soft skin and to illuminate homes, streets, animals and farms, boats and harbors. LUMINIST is what I am and LUMINIST is what I shall always be. When my paintings glow from the way I use light, it is a reflection of me.

Featured Artwork

Little Rooster (pastel)



"This lovely 'little rooster' has feathers so soft and shiny, they look silky. He is definitely the pride of his grassy domain as he struts his stuff."

Quiet Time (oil)



"Your day at the ocean has been filled with fun and play. Did you fly a kite? Did you discover natural treasures? Did you run for miles feeling the wind and hearing the pounding surf? Whatever your pleasures, now is the 'quiet time' to sit and observe a brilliant sunset and contemplate the past and plan for the future."

Cypress Shadows (gouache)



"A sudden rain shower has drenched the open expanse that lies before the cluster of Monterey Cypress trees at Fort Bragg, California. The glistening sunlight of late afternoon throws long, hazy 'cypress shadows' at your feet."