

Finalists

Each receives an Award Certificate and a one year subscription to *International Artist* magazine **PLUS** having their work seen world-wide by international galleries looking for new talent.



FINALIST

GABRIEL MARK LIPPER, Oregon, USA, Anniversary Roses, oil, 24 x 18" (60 x 45cm)

MY INSPIRATION

The muse in this case was my wife, Naomi. I learned early on in our relationship that although Naomi is a lover of flowers, roses are not her favorite. So when she returned home from our friend's house with a small bouquet of fresh cut creamy roses, I took notice. When she further suggested that I should paint them for our upcoming wedding anniversary, I knew I had a painting to start.

A painting like this is really more of a study, or moment in time. I wanted it to be fresh and whimsical. I wanted Naomi to be able to see my love for her in every brush stroke. Naomi still loves the piece as one of her favorites and thinks of it often as she rides around on the bright red bicycle she bought when it sold at one of my last shows.

MY DESIGN STRATEGY

I didn't want to paint a bouquet sitting on a table or surrounded by space. I wanted the flowers to fill the composition. The negative space between the roses or 'background' is similar in size and shape to the roses themselves. The texture of the paint takes on a character of its own. I use this same approach in many of my figurative paintings. Whether painting a bucking horse or an electric bar scene, each brush stroke should be charged with energy. Using as few notes as possible, I want the passion I have for the process to come through in the final piece.

MY WORKING PROCESS

I knew from the start that this painting would be completed in one session. My intention with any painting is to capture my subject's essence. I am less concerned with recording every detail of the subject, than I am with conveying its energy. So in this case, I threw the flowers in a glass vase and moved in close. I started with a fairly methodical drawing using my favorite oil color, Dioxazine Purple. I like the energy that comes through in little bursts as the rich purples of the drawing show through in the final painting. I then come in with my darkest values and build from there, saving the highlights and decadent darks for dessert. I paint heavily, scooping my paint on the panel with the flat of my brush. It's exhilarating to work at a frenzied pace. The tempo slows; I step back, squint, throw down a splash of white, a bit of Quinacridone Red and finally, my signature.

CONTACT DETAILS

Website: www.ArtOfGabriel.com