

the art of jon gagnon

jon gagnon was born amidst the influence of nature in the town of Nashua, New Hampshire. These harmonious New England surroundings were the early determining factors that have produced his unique style which cover all people, places and things.

The artist's style incorporating oil-based paints on canvas, is enhanced by the combination of brush and palette knife to capture a realistic quality that has been compared to the famous nature photographer, Ansel Adams, and the fine, realist painter, Featheroff.

The artist's versatility is well represented by his beautiful landscapes of all seasons, mystifying seascapes, intriguing desert scenes, still lifes, few but powerful portraits, and most dramatic of his works, his lightning storms depicted in blues, greens, and reds. He is the first artist to emphasize lightning in oil paintings. The most impressive (and jon's trademark) are his paintings of the 'big sky and little people.' In these compositions, jon relates the harmony of man and nature as Henry Thoreau did with his Walden Pond. The little people resemble Mark Twain's storybook characters and emphasize early Americana with their casual baggy pants and shirts with suspenders, bare feet and large-brimmed hats. These characters are more than a trademark to jon, they represent his own children and his subconscious wish that they shall always share the love jon has had for Mother Nature.

The artist's varying techniques have covered impressionism, cubism, abstractionism, realism and surrealism. His ability to display these techniques with a masterful control of light and color reminds the present generation of the old masters.

The artist's presence has been mainly throughout Southern California. jon's one-man shows have included the Walt Disney Studios and numerous galleries of reknown. jon has been the guest demonstrator at various shows.

A commission by the Navy to paint several paintings for the Bard Mansion in Point Hueme was turned down because of jon's local popularity and tight schedules proving Los Angeles to be an emerging power in the art world. jon's works can be found throughout the United States and Europe.

The artist's collectors range from every walk of life to prove his universal appeal. Some have made personal collections strictly of his work. One person in particular, a poet and writer, has a unique collection which covers jon's entire career and comprises over fifty paintings.

The artist's emotional outlook in his art expresses a personal philosophy of man's loneliness within himself. This seemingly melancholy view is compensated by serenity, happiness, hope and love for his work. The fortunate people who have collected his work can easily feel this, for the message is made powerful because it comes from within jon's soul. This inner beauty passes onto each painting and consequently to other people. Henry Thoreau wrote, "There can be no very black melancholy to him who lives in the midst of nature." jon lives in his art and dreams deep within nature's womb.

jon gagnon has been painting for over thirty-five years and is self taught.

gagnon studios