

Meet Mike Kupka

Mike Kupka's artwork captures more than just a likeness of the characters he paints. A graduate of the duCret School of Art in his native New Jersey, Mike's use of shadow, mood, composition and color help depict a greater range of emotions in all the villains he paints, from Captain Hook to Cruella.

Recently, Collectors Editions sat down with Mike to learn a little more about his life behind the canvas:

What's in your iPod?

What isn't? I have 3,600 songs, from Coldplay and Lenny Kravitz to Godsmack and Guns N' Roses.

What are you reading?

I just bought "An American Vision, Three Generations of Wyeth Art." I went to the Wyeth Museum in Brandywine, Pa., two years ago. I knew a lot about Wyeth's work, but it still blew me away to see it in person.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

An artist and a professional soccer player. I used to draw the Sunday comics every week as a kid. I wanted to go to a serious art school that also had a soccer program, but that was hard to find! I decided to just go to art school.

What is your favorite time of day to paint?

When everyone else is asleep. I go into the studio around 1 or 2 in the afternoon and work until 2 or 3 in the morning. When it's that late, my phone's not going to ring, and I can get more work done.

Favorite color?

Blue. Whenever I go shopping for anything, I always wind up buying blue. Then I look in my closet and everything's blue. I'm trying to buy some different colors now.

Where did you go on your last vacation?

Vegas, baby! I love to gamble. Art Expo was there, so I went to that and hung out for six days. Considering I gambled for that long, I think I held my own pretty well.

Favorite sport?

I love soccer, but I stopped playing a few years ago. I needed to focus on my art, and it was getting tougher with the younger kids coming to the league. As far as watching sports, hockey is my favorite.

Greatest artistic influence in your life and why?

Peter Caras. I met him my second year of art school. At the time, I was an advertising major, and he inspired me to switch to illustration. I wouldn't be where I am today without his guidance and friendship.

Tell us one thing we might be surprised to know about you.

I don't think I should share that!

What one word describes you?

Inspired.

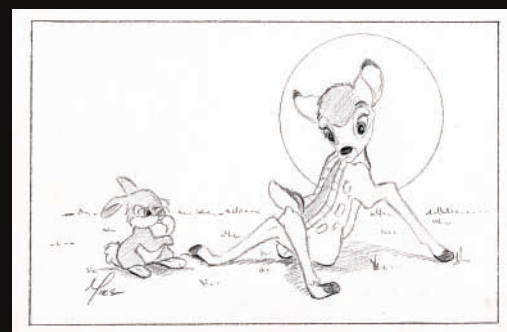


"Morning Blossoms"

Giclee on canvas

Dimensions: 15" x 20"

Edition of 50



"Bambi"

Graphite on illustration board

Dimensions: 6" x 10"

Each edition of *Behind the Canvas* will feature a Q-and -A with a different artist, who will create a unique sketch, painting or drawing. Galleries are encouraged to visit our Web site to find out how they can become the new owner of the original artwork featured. To learn how you can acquire this beautiful graphite sketch "Bambi" by Mike Kupka, go to www.CollectorsEditions.com.

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If you have any questions about this publication or would like additional copies, please contact Janet Smith, Director of Gallery Services and Managing Editor of *Behind the Canvas*, at jasmith@CollectorsEditions.com

Contributors This Issue:

Tim Dickson,
Co-owner/Vice President of Production

Michael Young,
President and CEO

Behind the Canvas

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HIGHLIGHTS

Inspired Journeys

Husband-and-wife art team Michael and Inessa Garmash get the inspiration for their paintings from two great loves: their love for each other, and their love for travel.

The couple, who have been married 15 years and have a 14-year-old daughter, Polina, travel together at least four to five times a year. Their adventures have taken them around the world, through much of Europe and the United States. Most recently, the pair traveled to Napa, Calif., with Michael Young, president and CEO of Collectors Editions, and Tim Dickson, owner and co-founder of Eclipse Workshop.

"New impressions always help to create new ideas," Michael explains. "Our trip to Napa enriched us with impressions of multi-colored vineyards. Fall is beautiful there, and we hope to see how the landscape and light changes during the other seasons."

Several of the Russian couple's romantic impressionist paintings have been inspired by their tandem travels. "Winter in Paris" was born as a way to capture the spirit of their trip to Paris at Christmastime. A different trip to Key West, Fla., sparked a series of paintings featuring the night port there.

When they're not trekking around the globe, Michael and Inessa reside in St. Petersburg, Russia, where they first met at a bus station. (Michael is a graduate of

the St. Petersburg Academy of Art, and Inessa is a graduate of the Lugansk Fine Art School in Ukraine.)

They began their painting partnership three years into their marriage, when Michael began a painting of Polina, then 2, for a project at school. But when the toddler found the painting and painted her own version, Inessa quietly fixed it

herself. Michael was told it was "his best work ever," and he and Inessa have painted together ever since.

They begin each painting by working on separate images, but in the process they discuss the work and sometimes switch roles. After several exchanges, the two "I's" blend into a "we."

“Two things are absolutely necessary for our work—to paint under natural light and to trust each other in the creative process. We often argue during the process, but we always come to a mutual agreement. We enjoy working together enormously.”

— Inessa Garmash



"Winter in Paris"

Hand-embellished Giclee on hand-textured canvas

Dimensions: 20" x 30" Edition of 50

IDEA PALETTE

Defining The Lines

Here at Collectors Editions, our mission is to paint a new canvas in the art world...one brush stroke at a time. Of course, we can't paint that canvas alone. That's why one of the most important aspects of our work is our support of you, our gallery partners and valued clients.

This year, one of our goals is to continue to enhance that support and further "define the lines" of collaboration and communication with our gallery partners. That includes making sure that all of our partners are aware of the full spectrum of marketing tools and services we provide.

One new tool we've provided this year is our gallery catalog. We have developed two catalogs, one focuses on our Collectors Editions Fine Art portfolio and the other on our Disney Fine Art portfolio. Both catalogs are provided to each gallery and include new release information, artist bios, "fast facts", a back reference to artists' work and more. Throughout the year, we'll be sending catalog updates to you whenever appropriate.

In addition, we offer a rich array of marketing resources, including help with layouts, creative direction and production of gallery canvas signage, advertising, new release information and more. We also want to help our gallery partners better tell the story of each painting—what the artist is painting and why. As part of that, look for more themed series of paintings from our artists, all with great stories, meaningful symbolism and of course resourceful information to support them.

Most importantly, please remember that we have an open-door policy. I encourage each of you to come visit Collectors Editions, take a tour of our facility, and spend some time with us and our artists—and please bring your collectors as well. We want to know how we can best partner with you—one brush stroke at a time.



Michael Young
President and CEO

New Additions



"Resplendent Queen"
Giclee on canvas Dimensions: 24" x 36" Edition of 50

With his liberal use of color, as well as dynamic lines, Brian Davis' "Resplendent Queen" is complex in its composition.



"We'll Keep 'Em"
Giclee on canvas Dimensions: 18" x 24" Edition of 95

"We'll Keep 'Em" is by James Coleman. Reunited at last, the Dalmatian clan eventually make it back home, where Roger and Anita decide to raise the 84 other dogs along with their original 17, so making 101 Dalmatians.

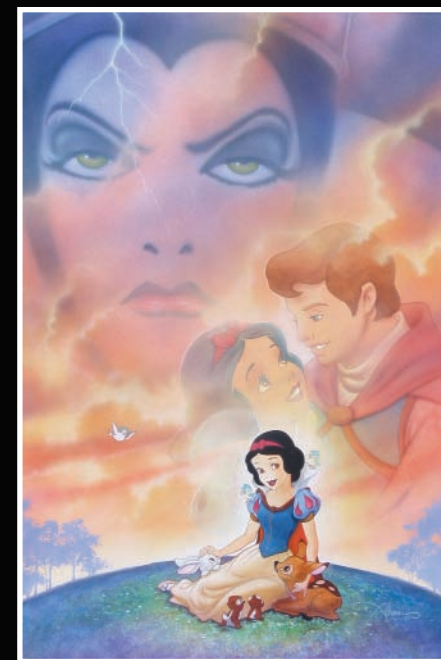


"Wishful"
Hand-embellished Giclee on hand-textured canvas
Dimensions: 40" x 18" Edition of 50

Andrew creates a composition of concentrated emotion by using color to not only physically describe a woman, but to also explain her introspective state of mind.

"Snow White's Romance"
Giclee on canvas
Dimensions: 24" x 16" Edition of 70

John Alvin sought to offer the full range of emotions and the extreme contrast between good and evil that we experience throughout the story of Snow White.



IN MEMORY OF...

John Alvin

We are extremely sad to report that artist John Alvin died suddenly of a heart attack Feb. 6. A master of cinematic art, John created posters for countless Hollywood blockbusters, including the two fingers touching above the Earth's surface for "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial."

"Creating the promise of a great experience" was how John described his role as today's pre-eminent designer and illustrator of cinema art. Over his 35-year career, he painted some of the most recognizable movie art for more than 135 films, including "The Color Purple," "Cocoon," "Blade Runner," "The Lion King," "Harry Potter," "Star Wars," "Lord of the Rings" and "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

"John was a brilliant artist, but he also was one of the most amazing human beings I've ever met," says Michael Young, president and CEO of Collectors Editions. "He was humble, sincere and a true joy to be around. He will be dearly missed."



ECLIPSING ALL OTHERS

True Colors

"Color is extremely important to every artist, and to what he or she wants the audience to see and feel," says Tim Dickson, owner and co-founder of Eclipse Workshop, Collectors Editions' in-house printing division. "The job of the printmaker is to respect that, and to reproduce that original color as closely as possible."

How does a printmaker do that? It's no easy task, but one of the most important skills involved is a deep, hands-on understanding of color theory. That understanding often comes from experience in analog screen-printing, which requires hand-mixing colors from a seemingly endless palette of possibilities.



The master printers at Eclipse Workshop continue to work in both the digital and analog worlds—enabling them to translate their expertise to both kinds of prints.

"No matter what technology you use, you need to have that intimate knowledge of what it's like to add yellow to purple or green to red," Tim explains. "Working in both the analog and digital worlds keeps us close to that knowledge."

In addition, Eclipse works with each artist when making reproductions, often developing a unique language about color with each artist. "Pull back on the blue," for example, could mean something different to every artist.

"Our own knowledge of color is what helps us communicate with the artists and create an authentic print," he says. "It's our job to keep that original color alive."



BRUSH TIP: We've added something new—Disney Fine Art TILE by artist Allyson Vought. Visit www.DisneyFineArt.com to learn about these beautiful hand-crafted tiles and view the complete inaugural collection.