

Thomas Jefferson Kitts | BIO



Thomas lives in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from the *Kansas City Art Institute* in 1984, after which he returned home to paint *en plein air* in the Pacific Northwest and California.

Thomas is both inspired and exhilarated by the way light plays across a landscape and he has devoted over 27 years to capturing it in oil. Thomas prefers to paint directly from life for its honesty and immediacy, incorporating *alla prima* techniques developed by master artists such as Sargent, Sorolla, and Zorn.

Thomas is an active member of the *Laguna Plein Air Painters Association*, the *California Art Club*, the *Oil Painters of America*, and the *American Impressionist Society*. He travels extensively and maintains an active and distinguished exhibition history – one which includes the *Laguna Art Museum*, the *Maritime Museum of Curacao*, the *Academy Museum of Easton*, *Oil Painters of America National & Regional Exhibitions*, *Arts for the Parks Top 100*, and three *New York Art Expos*. Thomas has been commissioned by such prestigious entities as the *Publix Corporation*, the *Mariott Corporation*, the *Paul G. Allen Family Foundation*, and the *Kaiser-Permanente Collection*. His work is collected throughout North America.

During 2011, Thomas received *Best International Artist at Plein Air Curacao*, *Best New Artist at Plein Air Easton*, and both *Best of Show and Mayor's Choice at the 2011 Carmel Art Festival*. He is currently the 2011-2011 *Artist-in-Residence* at the prominent *University Club* in Portland, Oregon.

During 2011, Thomas will be painting on behalf of *Plein Air Magazine* at their *1st Annual Plein Air Convention* at Red Rock, outside of Las Vegas. He has also been pre-invited to the *2012 Carmel Festival of the Arts*, *Los Gatos Plein Air*, and the *14th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Invitational*. Other events will be included as they are announced.

For more information, please visit:

www.thomaskitts.com or www.thomaskitts.blogspot.com

Quick Overview of 2011 Competitions, Invitationals & Exhibitions

- 2011 12th Annual American Impressionists Society**
- 2011 13th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Invitational**
- 2011 Plein Air Curacao | Best International Artist**
- 2011 Plein Air Easton | Best New Artist**
- 2011 Telluride Plein Air**
- 2011 Los Gatos Plein Air**
- 2011 Carmel Art Festival | 1st Place & Mayor's Choice**

Select Group Shows

12th Annual Juried Exhibition | American Impressionist Society

Mountain Song Gallery, Carmel California

Oil Painters of America 19th Annual National Exhibition 2010

Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale Arizona

Top 100 Artist Show & Arts for the Parks National Exhibition Tour

National Parks Academy of the Arts, Jackson, Wyoming, 2005-2006

New York Art Expos: 2002, 2001, 2000

New York, New York

East Meets West,

Chetwynd Stapelton Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1998

Oil Painters of America, 7th National Exhibition,

P & C Gallery-Georgetown, Washington D.C., 1998

Oil Painters of America, West Coast Regional Show,

Jones & Terwilliger Gallery, Carmel, California, 1997

Messages From the Interior

Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, Portland, Oregon, 1997

Oregon Landscape Painters,

Chetwynd Stapelton Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1996

Pacific Northwest College of Art Faculty Exchange,

Salem, Oregon, 1993

Your Show of Shows, Society of Illustrators,

New York, New York, 1990

Select Solo Shows

Visual Meditations on the Northwest Landscape

Canessa Park Gallery, San Francisco, California, 1995

First Light Over Sauvie Island

Chetwynd Stapelton Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1994

Sauvie Island & Other Changing Oregon Landscapes

Le Meitour Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1993

Landscapes, Cityscapes & People,

Le Meitour Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1992

Paintings From the Last Six Years

Le Meitour Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1990

Select Awards and Recognitions

Best International Artist

Plein Air Curacao, 2011

Best New Artist

Plein Air Easton Plein Air, 2011

1st Place & Mayor's Choice

19th Annual Carmel Art Festival, 2011

Honorable Mention

Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. 2010

Honorable Mention

Telluride Plein Air. 2010

Top 100 Artist, Arts for the Parks

National Parks Academy of the Arts, Jackson, Wyoming, 2005

Award of Merit

Connecticut Art Director's Club, Connecticut, 1989

Award of Merit

Oregon Art Annual, Salem, Oregon, 1988

Silver Medal

Illustrator's 28th Exhibition, Society of Illustrators, New York, New York, 1986

Gold Medal

Art Director's Club, New York, New York, 1986

Honorable Mention

Society of Publication Designers, New York, New York, 1986

Select History of Galleries, Expos and Sales Affiliations

New York Art Expo 2001, 2002, 2003

Artifacts Gallery, Cambria, California

Desert Art Source, Palm Desert, California

SoHo Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas, Nevada

Collector's Editions, Kauai & Hawaii

The Lanning Gallery, Sedona, Arizona 1997 to 1999

Rip Caswell Gallery, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 1997 to 2001

Carlton Gallery, Carlton, Oregon, 1996 to 1998

Chetwynd Stapelton Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1994 to 1999

Le Meitour Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1990 to 1994

Gango Gallery, Portland, Oregon, 1988 to 1989

The Augustine Collection, Portland, Oregon, 1987 to 1988

Select Corporate/Institutional Collections & Private Commissions

Publix Corporation, Telluride, 2011

Mariott Corporation, Palm Desert, 1998

Portland Trail Blazers, Paul Allen Foundation, Portland, Oregon

Kaiser-Permanente Collection, Portland, Oregon

Professional Affiliations

Artist Member, Oil Painters of America

Associate Member, California Art Club

Artist Member, American Society of Impressionists

Artist Member, Laguna Plein Air Painters Association

Instructor, Pacific Northwest College of Art, 1990 to 2000

Artist Member, Society of Illustrators, New York, 1986 to 1994

Arts-related Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1984, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri

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