



## "Rory Wagner"

Rory Wagner is an artist whose work resonated with me even before we represented him. He is in my personal collection and I love living with his art in my home. His work speaks of strength, determination, and emotion.

Rory is truly a Modern Master. Each time a new original comes into the gallery I am moved in a different way. I am reminded of how important his work is and how fortunate the gallery is to be a part of it. Knowing that for many years only one gallery represented him, it is a privilege to have him here at Sorrel Sky.

I know that when a client purchases a Rory Wagner painting they are not only getting an amazing masterpiece, but a part of history!

Shanan Campbell Wells,  
owner ✨

## Wagner's First Solo Exhibition in 25 Years

"I'm pedantic and insufferable. Ask anyone," Rory Wagner says of himself.

There is no need to ask. The precision is evident. Thousands of tiny dots of paint are applied to the canvas with a double aught brush to create the fabric pattern in the scarf worn by the woman in "Charlemagne's Baubles of Deceit." The beadwork on the dress circa 1860-1870 worn by the Sioux woman in "Strength of a Woman" is historically accurate. One can't help but marvel at the assiduity of his work.

Well-researched details about the artifacts used, the tribe represented, concepts, or other informative tidbits are written by Rory on the back of his canvases like a secret message to help decode the enigma. In



"The Strength of a Woman"

"Strength of a Woman" the enigma is in the background. The eyes of Honoré de Balzac from a sculpture by Auguste Rodin fill the canvas. Balzac appears to be crying tears of blood.

These enigmatic details are not the only things about Rory's canvases that nearly defy description. There is depth in the skin tone of Rory's often historic, frequently mythological subjects. They look not painted but rubbed, layer upon layer. This self-taught technique has been called revolutionary and innovative, but don't suggest such haughty words to Rory.

"The painting process I use may be unique. I have never actually known any 'academic' methods. Call it lazy, arrogant, or just plain stupid. I paint exactly like I draw...even using an eraser. Innovative? No. Desperate? Yes. I think..." he says.

And don't ask him to tell you where he gets his inspiration.

"When I get an idea for a painting, it is in a general sense, not specific. It is an evolving process. I may do a couple of pre-studies, but usually I begin sketching directly on the canvas. Keeping in mind balance, movement, size, general color scheme, weight, etc. That's the hardest part, but the most exciting: To take it from what's inside my tiny brain...through to my hands. It's wonderful if it works, agony when it doesn't."

While Rory may provide clues through the written notes on the back of a canvas, he will not explain the meaning of the work. Instead, he believes that often the interpretation of the painting by another is more accurate and profound than his own intention.

## Rory Wagner *con't from front page...*

His paintings are not only beautiful to look at, they are contemplative, provocative, unsettling, and inspirational. There is something new to discover in the broken sculptures perched atop poles in "Favorite Things V" or the tears in the eyes of "Charlemagne's Bauble's of Deceit." Even the use of Rodin's sculpture of Balzac in "Strength of a Woman" is profound. Balzac was known as a nocturnal artist who wrote for 15 hours a day, fueled by vast quantities of coffee. Rory is also nocturnal, working for long stretches of time, sleeping only a few hours a day.

"It takes me hours and hours, day upon day, to complete a painting," Rory says.

In "Strength of a Woman," Rodin's sculpture has deeply gouged features because Rodin intended to show Balzac at the moment of conceiving his work—expressing courage, labor, struggle, and insight. Rodin believed that physical features revealed an individual's character.

In Rory's paintings, the physical features also reveal the individual character, whether it is a gaze in the eyes, visible veins in the arms, or a supplicating posture—character is revealed: The character of the subject and the character of Rory Wagner.

Rory is uncompromising in his work. If he is not satisfied with a painting he has been known to destroy it and start anew. Of the 6-12 canvases that



"Charlemagne's Baubles of Deceit"



"Favorite Things V"

annually pass under his intense scrutiny, each glow with a passionate presence. He builds his own stretchers and stretches each canvas himself. Then he begins drawing with paint.

"Once a concept and outline has been perceived, it becomes effortless," Rory says about his painting. "Time becomes vague. There are frustrations of course, but they are wonderful frustrations."

It's not surprising that Rory chose Taos, N.M. as his home. Taos has long been a Mecca for those who refuse to compromise; and those who demand freedom in their daily existence. Soon after he arrived in the 1970s, Rory happened into the gallery of R.C. Gorman. R.C. became his mentor. Rory and R.C. were life-long friends.

"I don't do one-man shows very often," Rory says. "I'm not an entertainer, quite the reverse."

Rory hasn't had a solo exhibition for 25 years, even though he was chosen as the 2006 recipient of the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. According to Governor Bill Richardson, the prestigious tribute is awarded to artists who exemplify the energy and creativity of New Mexico, a state that ranks second behind New York in art sales.

Sorrel Sky has represented Rory Wagner for five years and his work attracts a wide audience of collectors and art aficionados. For his solo show, the gallery will have several large originals, some created specifically for this event. There will also be smaller studies, ripped from Rory's sketchbook, works on paper, and several limited edition giclée prints to appeal to a range of buyers. And this show means something important to Rory as well.

"This show at Sorrel Sky in September will probably be my last," Wagner says. "I grow more reclusive by the day. My studio has become my world." ✨



Rory Wagner with Gov. Richardson

## Diamonds and Gemstones for All Occasions

Diamonds and Gemstones come in every hue, tone, and saturation. They are born of the earth and become something exquisite when cut and polished. The beauty of diamonds and gemstones is everlasting and can be found in the unique work created by Sorrel Sky jewelry artists.

- **Amethyst** is a purple quartz gemstone that comes in a wide tonal range from lavender to deep plum. The Roman gods prized amethyst as a talisman to ward off the intoxicating power of Bacchus (the god of wine). Great thinkers like Leonardo da Vinci believed that amethyst could dissipate evil thoughts and quicken the intelligence. Amethyst is the birthstone for February.
- **Blue Topaz** is a shade found rarely in nature, but is today the most common color. After raw topaz is extracted from the earth and cut, it is irradiated to brown and heated to sky blue. This enhancement process is permanent. The Greeks believed that topaz had the power to increase strength and make its wearer invisible before a time of emergency. Other legends say that topaz dispels all enchantment and helps to improve eyesight.
- **Citrine** is a yellow quartz gemstone whose name is derived from the French word for lemon. Brazil is the leading producer of naturally mined citrine. Most citrine is created by heating amethyst or smoky quartz to a brilliant yellow-orange color. In ancient times, citrine was carried as a protection against snake venom and evil thoughts. Citrine is the alternate birthstone for November.
- **Diamond** is the hardest material known to man and derives from the ancient Greek word adamas meaning invincible. Diamond is celebrated for the purity of its brilliance. Diamonds are graded based upon cut, carat weight, color, and clarity. Cut is the geometric way a diamond is faceted into a gem. Often diamond cut is confused with "shape."

Carat weight measures the mass of the diamond. One carat = 200 milligrams. Clarity is a measure of internal defects called inclusions. Diamonds are graded on a scale ranging from flawless to imperfect. Diamond is the April birthstone.

- **Peridot** comes in shades of spring green and was prized by the Ancient Egyptians 3,500 years ago. In Hawaiian legend, peridot is the divine tears wept by the goddess Pele. Peridot has been credited with a host of magical powers and healing properties, such as protection against nightmares and warding off evil. Peridot is the August birthstone.
- **Sapphire** is one of nature's most durable gemstones. Ancient Persian rulers believed that the earth rested on a giant sapphire and its reflection colored the sky. The Latin name Sapphiru means blue. Sapphire is most familiar as a blue stone, but Sapphire may come in many other shades from pink, to golden, to orange, to twilight. Sapphire has long symbolized a pledge of trust and loyalty and is popular for engagement rings. Sapphire is the September birthstone. ✨



# www.sorrelsky.com

You can learn more about our artists on the Sorrel Sky website by reading their biographies. Each of our artists has provided us current information about his or her work. We provide a brief history about where the artists were born and how they learned their craft, as well as their working method and artistic intention.

Many of the new artist biographies include quotes from our artists that provide an intimate glimpse into their creative world. Check it out! ✨

## Baylor All Saints Andrews Women's Hospital



SCW Art Consulting was chosen to work with the award winning and prestigious Baylor Health Care System to develop an aesthetics policy and select artwork for the new Baylor All Saints Andrews Women's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. Competing against dozens of other firms from around the country, SCW is thrilled to be working with Baylor and the Trammel Crow Company.

The new hospital is one of a handful of women's only facilities across the United States. Along with state of the art healthcare services, the hospital will have a day spa, Starbucks coffee shop, retail shopping, complete fitness services, and childcare on site with the main hospital.

Since SCW is a woman-owned company, Shanan and Lindsay value and understand the need for Andrews Women's Hospital. "The most memorable and life giving moments happen in facilities such as this," they say.

It was more than valuing and understanding the role of a woman's hospital that earned SCW the project. It is the comprehensive package that takes into consideration the mission and vision of the facility that sets SCW apart.

"We were looking for something different and unique that reflected who we are," Janice Whitmire, hospital administrator says. "I loved that SCW used different mediums to bring out the history of the facility, because we are truly unique."

Baylor University Medical Center has a rich history which began with its founding as the Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium in 1903. All Saints was founded in the late 1800s as an Episcopal hospital.

The grouping of artwork that SCW will be installing for the Andrews Women's Hospital will express a combination of beauty, spirit and inspiration. The pieces, when brought together as a collection, connect all those who experience it with the nurturing feeling of a life affirming spirit.

The antepartum facility will be the first section of the hospital to open in August 2007. ✨

## OUR COMMUNITY

### TLC for FLC

For six years Sorrel Sky Gallery has supported the TLC for FLC fundraiser by donating a work of art, helping develop themes, and working with other businesses to find venues and auction items. In 2006, one of the key items auctioned was "Diligent Journey" by Rory Wagner. This year, a ceramic vessel by Pahponee was donated.



"Diligent Journey"

Each year, Tender Loving Care for Fort Lewis College raises money to provide scholarships for students. In April 2007, the event brought in \$40,000. Last year, the Fort Lewis College Foundation assisted more than 200 students through scholarship awards.

"Sorrel Sky is a great supporter of this event," says Margie Dean Gray, director of the Fort Lewis College Foundation.

Shanan, an alumnus of Fort Lewis College, has served on the TLC committee for ten years. She and the gallery staff value the role the college plays in the community and are happy to support the cause. ✨

## Cherie Dorie

Nelly Cohen, founder of Cherie Dori, was born in Morocco. She graduated from Haifa University with a Masters degree in French literature and integrates her love of poetry into her designs.

The name Cherie Dori is rooted in tradition, yet whimsical. Dori is Nelly Cohen's eldest daughter and was the inspiration for the name. Cherie is French for "sweet."

Nelly draws inspiration from Israel, a country of contrast and convergence, where she lives and works. Israel has been at the intersection of different cultures since the dawn of time. Ancient traditions thrive within modern life here. Camels are juxtaposed with jets and ancient texts are explored as fervently as the frontiers of modern science. The wisdom of ages provides a solid foundation for innovation. It is fertile ground for creative minds.

Drawing inspiration from these influences, Nelly combines old world craftsmanship with leading edge technology.

Nelly is known for her quality pavé and micro pavé work. Traditional pavé is done by hand. The artisan drills holes and sets round diamonds into the holes by pushing small areas or beads of metal from outside the hole over the edge of the diamond to hold the diamond in place. Traditional pavé has a more random appearance.

Micro pavé is created using very tiny, precise, and uniform prongs, which hold little, round diamonds. The look is harmonized and symmetrical. The surface of a ring or pendant is often paved with 80 to 100 diminutive diamonds. Technology has allowed designers to create this type of pavé work. The jewelry artist uses a computer to design the layout of the stones. Even the tiny prongs are formed by software, which is much more precise than drilling holes into metal by hand.

Cherie Dori designs are bold yet epitomize endless style. The designs are artistic. The Swivel Collection incorporates



swirling circular forms in earrings and pendants made from yellow gold. Other collections evoke handcraftsmanship and raw, hammered finishes that provide an organic feel, echoing ancient civilizations with a contemporary flare.

On the other hand, Cherie Dori designs also reflect a passion for the vintage. In the Borderie Anglaise collection, drop pendants in onyx or red agate are enveloped in lacey gold and diamonds, recalling Victorian embroidery art.

Owning a piece of Cherie Dori jewelry is like draping oneself in poetry.

"I start with words," Nelly says. "The lyric precedes the design. When I hear the rhythm I know a winner is born." ✨



## 2007 Calendar

- Sep 8 One Man Show featuring Rory Wagner. His first solo show in 25 years. Opening reception, 5-8 p.m.
- Sep 21 Colorfest Gallery Walk, 5-9 p.m.  
Featuring Kaizen
- Nov 9 Stephen Day and Doug Moore  
Opening reception, 5-8 p.m.
- Dec 13 Noel Night, 5-9 p.m.

Check this calendar for exciting information about our upcoming shows in 2008!



### Sorrel Sky Welcomes Gary Prisby

Gary Prisby joined Sorrel Sky Gallery this spring as a full-time sales associate. Gary owned a gallery and frame shop for 17 years on the North Shore of Massachusetts. He relocated to Durango in 2004.



### Returning Gallery Artist: Shirley Novak

Shirley Novak paints in oils using a wet-on-wet technique. Whenever possible, she paints en plein air, either in her garden or on location when she travels. "What I try to do with paint is recreate the joy I experience in my subjects—the flowers I grow and the wildflowers in the mountain meadows," Shirley says.



### New Gallery Artist: Michael Lewis

Michael Lewis is a signature member of the Plein Air Painters of New Mexico and a founding member of Plein Air Painters of the West. He travels to various state parks where he paints small plein air works that are then enlarged back in his studio. "My resume is my canvas. What I studied in school is irrelevant." Michael says.

*Sorrel Sky*<sup>TM</sup>

GALLERY

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