

# John Douglas

Artist John Douglas was born in Kansas, but raised in Phoenix, AZ. Douglas' first creative influences grew from his interactions with the vast diversity and awe inspiring delicacy of the landscape of the American Southwest. John pursued an education in fine art by attending Arizona State University, as well as, coursework in California where he studied painting and various other forms of art media.

The artist's passion for travel has taken him around the globe and back. Favorite retreats include Thailand, Florence, Vienna, Prague, and the Amalfi coast, all of which have provided him with profound inspiration that overflows in his work. Douglas is willing to go, literally, to the ends of the earth to seek out the objects and ethos of exotic places to translate into his painting. He greatly admires both the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Tate Gallery in London and, although he has visited each of them countless times, he still finds the experience poignant and moving. Douglas acknowledges the profundity of such modern artists as Francis Bacon and Salvador Dali as stimulating and adding impetus and momentum to his own work. He looks to Bacon for his brilliance, bold success and enormity; and to Dali for his imaginative genius, eccentric character and surrealist psyche.

Douglas' work transcends mere classical representation. The complex layering of paint, images, iconography and other media work together to build a bridge to a fantastic world that balances both antiquity and modernism. The sophistication in the artist's diversity of styles has been inspired by aesthetic elements found in all corners of the world, from Greek and Roman columns, the geometry of the mosaics and tile-work of the Middle East to the opulence of the Renaissance. The paintings of John Douglas are rich with this history and tactile splendor. Douglas continues to reinvent himself by exploring new mediums such as vibrant, abstract painting on multi-dimensional steel and copper wall sculptures, painted wood construction wall reliefs and painted glass.

John Douglas strives to achieve balance in his life by embracing all forms of art and constantly broadening the scope of his vision. He continues to support and enjoy the opera, live theatre, performing arts and Broadway shows-and, as always, he maintains his enthusiasm for exotic travel.