

# WATER STREET GALLERY LTD.

FINE ART • MUSEUM MOUNTING • CUSTOM FRAMING

## Richard Franklin

It is generally thought that no one can improve upon the Old Masters and rightly so, as they were men of a special time who appeared on the scene to captivate and inspire us all. Richard Franklin has emerged at this time to further enhance the spirits of those artists capturing the feeling and soul of that type of art. His treatment of the human figure draws from mythological, religious and secular visions of the past. He also adds interesting visual elements of a more modern style.

Richard Franklin was born to a military family at Fort Belvoir, Virginia in 1961. As a child, his favorite pastime was filling sketch books with intricate drawings of the hand and face. During his high school years, his family moved to the Middle East. It was here that the spark of painting was ignited when he studied with an Oriental Master Artist. He finished high school in Watford, England and attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. At age 23, Richard decided to make art his full-time commitment. He studied at Colorado Institute of Art, but found that commercial art was not what he wanted to do. He was fascinated with the human figure.

Essentially, Richard is a sensitive and deep thinking individual. He is able to depict the emotions and feelings of each figure he paints. His extensive travel in Europe, Africa, Saudi Arabia and the Middle and Far East, gives him vast resources from which to draw.

In the year 1990, Richard totally immersed himself in the Old Master's world. He lived in Belgium and visited all the museums there and in Holland, France and Germany seeing first hand where Monet, Rembrandt, Rubens and Vermeer obtained their inspiration. He would set up his easel at the museum along with other students of art and try to catch the spirit of these great men. This experience proved to be invaluable and served to channel his interests in fine art and ideal beauty.

Although Franklin admires the work of the Old Masters tremendously, he has found his own idiom. "The effects of age in an old painting add a richness and translucence that even the Masters did not foresee, and which I try to reproduce. Adding these ravages of time tends to lend character."

Today, realism has regained acceptance in the art world and Richard Franklin's paintings have arrived at this precise time. His work has a dimensional look, a softness of color and a feeling of solitude and repose. Now in his early thirties, he is an accomplished fine artist and devoted family man. His work has been widely exhibited.