

Terry Isaac - His Life and Art

By Lillian Perry

Terry is one of those few lucky artists who enjoyed success in the “hay day” of the print market. He started his career in the mid eighties having been a middle school art teacher for eight years. Terry got his start in the print market in 1987 after taking a workshop at the Beartooth School of Art, hosted by Jack Hines and Jessica Zemsky. Robert Bateman was one of the teachers and was impressed enough with Isaac’s work to recommend him to Mill Pond Press who agreed to publish his limited edition prints. This allowed Terry to resign from his public teaching position and live his dream of becoming a full time artist.

Dreams happen but sometimes they are not perfect all of the time. While demand for Terry’s originals continued to be strong, the significant collapse of the print market came as a significant blow to the artist. In 2002 Terry’s first marriage ended in divorce and Isaac was left trying to find his way both professionally and personally.



“Freedom Run”



“In the Vineyards”

In 2004, he met Kathleen Jagger at a painting workshop in Penticton, BC Canada. He fell in love and carried on an international relationship, him in Oregon and her in Canada. Isaac had lived his entire life in Salem, Oregon but in August 2007 he moved to Canada to start a new family life with Kathleen.

Being somewhat of a regionalist painter, one that paints subject matter from the region in which they live, Isaac has begun to paint images from the Okanagan Valley. Penticton is surrounded by orchards and vineyards that attract a variety of birds. “In the Vineyard” depicts quail with full grapes just before the fall harvest. Terry also painted a typical Canadian subject in “Morning Reflections” a piece that will show at Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in their Birds in Art Exhibit.



“Colors of Zion”

For the first time in his career Terry has painted horses. He was inspired by wild horses running free in the land around his house and decided to use summer and winter reference of a heard of horses to create “Freedom Run” and “Winter Run”. “Freedom Run” was accepted into the Western Art Auction at the Calgary Stampede, probably the largest western and wildlife auction in Canada.

Isaac was inspired to paint a purely landscape piece entitled “Colors of Zion” which was accepted in the “Zion National Park Centennial Art Exhibit” A Century of Sanctuary” at the St George Art Museum, St. George Utah. Isaac is excited because his artwork will hang alongside historic paintings of Zion by artists he studied and admired.

After being with Mill Pond for nearly 20 years he is now publishing his own limited edition prints. “Raven and Moon” was his first giclee on canvas print with a number of others in the process of being printed. Being self published requires a number of marketing strategies and as well as advertising in magazines and newspapers, Terry has put up his own billboard in his new home town of Penticton. The billboard serves as his introduction to the local market but also to the thousands of tourists that flock to the Okanagan throughout the year.

As an accomplished teacher who really enjoys the process of teaching, Isaac intends to put out a new book and DVD in the not too distant future. Continued demand for his teaching will likely result in him hosting workshops in Canada, US and the UK.



“Morning Reflections”