



## **RICK MUTO ARTIST STATEMENT**

As an artist, I have pursued a career as a painter, practicing in both the fields of decorative and fine art. Not unlike many young artists in my day, I came from the academic world into the job market not knowing how I was going to use my skills to make a living. I began to carve my own niche with my interests in the landscape, architecture and the decorative arts. More precisely, my personal means of artistic expression began to manifest not only on a canvas but in my entire personal environment. It became important for me to transform the space in which I lived into a personal vision, and these were the components that would come into play.

Nature has always been a major source of inspiration for me. Through the landscape I found myself trying to understand the organic rhythms, patterns and textures found throughout the natural world. In my college experience, studying painting under Professor Emeritus, Paul Garland at SUNY Oswego, I explored these ideas from an abstract point of view, discovering what I determined to be the “universal organic line” that could be found everywhere. It was a rhythm that seemed to manifest in clouds, trees, rocks water, our circulatory systems the paths of rivers and tributaries, coastlines, and cracks in the sidewalk, or fractures in the courtyard walls around Tyler Hall. Many years later I learned that this was part of what scientists were calling Chaos Theory and Fractal Geometry.

My interest in architecture and the decorative arts came forth in my first years after college as my wife and I proceeded to purchase and restore an old rooming house. During this process I began peddling my skills as a decorative painter, working with interior designers, architects and antique dealers, restoring old furniture art, artifacts and architecture, as well as creating new work. This provided me with an income as I continued to discover my interests in the field of painted decoration. I soon discovered the age old techniques of marbling and woodgraining, which I eagerly embraced as an expansion of my repertoire. In hindsight this was the link between my interest in landscape and nature, and the field of decorative painting. Clearly it was the patterns in these natural materials that drew me to the craft, as they were of the same interest as those that I was pursuing in college, though I wasn't conscious of the relationship at the time.

My personal work had shifted to the pursuit of learning to master paint by interpreting the landscape from a more representational point of view. I believed that would give me the skills I needed to master the medium, as well as study the landscape, which was and is at the core of my personal expression. Surface textures found in nature became increasingly interesting to me on canvas and then incorporated into my decorative work. The other major component of my early aspirations was the genre of mural painting, a place where all of my skills and interests would be expressed, sometimes in one piece of art. Almost all of my murals have elements of landscape. Second to that is the inclusion of architecture of various styles, and architectural stonework.



## **RICK MUTO BIOGRAPHY**

For over three decades Rick Muto has built his career as a muralist, decorative painter and fine artist located in Rochester, New York. His work can be found gracing the interiors of prominent homes, businesses and institutions throughout Upstate New York, as well as other metropolitan areas like New York City, Washington D.C. and Palm Beach, Florida.

As Rick developed his career applying his skills to embellishing homes with painted decoration, he continued to apply himself as an easel painter focusing on both landscape and figurative paintings for his own private enjoyment. Over the last decade he has begun to show and sell these works out of his studio and in select gallery exhibits.

As a decorative painter, Rick's repertoire includes traditional techniques such as marbling, wood graining, stylized freehand decoration and various glazing, scumbling and color washing applications that evoke aged, textured and natural surfaces. He adjuncts these skills with other crafts including gilding, Venetian plaster and fine finishing.

Rick's work bridges decorative and fine art through a significant number and variety of murals employing architectural tromp l'oeil, landscape, still life, figurative and narrative genres. His ability in working with clients to bring ideas to a concrete visual statement, combined with his uncompromising attention to detail, has contributed to his growing reputation and continued success in the field of decorative art.

He has brought those same qualities and concerns to his work as a fine artist, creating works that are both visually appealing and technically sound archival products.

Most recently Rick has been working with Steinway and Sons producing grand pianos embellished with paintings in various styles. His work is also displayed in many private homes and collections,



## Curriculum Vitae

1955 Born in Rochester, NY USA  
1974 Baccalaureate degree in Russian Language and Literature with a minor in Studio Art  
1977-Present Started the independently owned business of Decorative Arts Studio by R&R Muto

### RECENT EXHIBITS

2013 Contemplating Nature- Works by Four Contemporary Painters, Axom Gallery. Rochester, NY  
2012 SUNY Oswego Alumni Exhibit, Tyler Art Gallery. Oswego, NY  
2011 Rick Muto: Recent works, Four walls Gallery, Crego Satellite Space. Rochester, NY  
2009 New York Figure Study Guild Annual Exhibit, Steve Carpenter Gallery. Rochester, NY  
2008 New York Figure Study Guild Annual Exhibit, Steve Carpenter Gallery. Rochester, NY  
2007 New York Figure Study Guild Annual Exhibit, Steve Carpenter Gallery. Rochester, NY  
2005 Paintings by Rick Muto, The Geisel Gallery @ 1 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, NY

### CORPORATE COMMISSIONS

2011-12 Steinway & Sons - Original Art Case Piano "Springtime" designed and painted by Rick Muto.  
2010 Steinway & Sons - Original Art Case "First Ladies' Piano" Music desk designed and painted by Rick Muto.  
2008 Steinway & Sons. Steinway & Sons – "The Doheny II" Art Case Piano a replica of the original 1903 an original painting on the underside of the lid, designed and painted by Rick Muto.  
2007 Steinway & Sons. Replica of the original 1904 "White House Grand Piano" All painted decoration by Rick Muto.  
2005 Lidestri Foods. Still Life with "Parmigiano" a mural Measuring 8' X 8' Acrylic on Canvas, installed on Site, @Lidestri Foods. Fairport, NY.  
2003 City of Rochester. "In the Garden" a mural commissioned for the Maplewood Edgerton neighborhoods; 8' X24' Acrylic on Panels, installed on site.  
2002 Canandaigua National Bank. "Irondequoit Life" Mural commissioned for the Irondequoit Branch. 8' X 38' Acrylic on Canvas wrapped panels, installed on site. A collaboration with P.D Avallone.  
2001 Rochester City School District. "The World is my Classroom" A mural at #4 School; 3.5' x 30' Acrylic on Canvas



- 2000 City of Rochester. "Celebration" A mural commissioned by the Merchants Area Neighborhood Association Through the CBC Grant program. 8' X 24' Acrylic on Panels, installed on site.
- 1999 Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort Lake Placid NY. Two murals depicting the German home towns of the owners. Approximately 48" X 60" Acrylic on Canvas, installed on site.
- 1998 The Friendly Home, a senior facility. Rochester, NY Two murals depicting views of the Finger Lakes, measuring 5' X 20' each. Painted in Acrylics, directly on the walls in the main Dining room.
- 1997 Cheryl Kelly, DMD Pediatric Dentistry. Rochester, NY "Wild life of Western NY" Painted in Acrylic directly on the wall. 8' X 20'
- 1996-97 Bausch & Lomb World Headquarters. Rochester, NY "Focal Points: The Epic of Bausch & Lomb" 7.5' X 21' Acrylic on Canvas, installed on site.
- 1995 Mann's Jewelers. Neo-Renaissance mural in 4' X 6' Ceiling Dome for store Expansion. Oil on Plaster.
- 1990 Mann's Jewelers. "Mythology of the Creation of Gemstones" A Neo-Renaissance mural painted in a 22' diameter Domed ceiling. Oil on Plaster

## PUBLICATIONS

Rochester Magazine

July 2012. "Musical Mural; Another kind of canvas for Rick Muto"

Design NY

2012 Eleventh Edition. "Springtime" A feature article about the creation of The Steinway Art Case Piano

Mann's Jewelers Magazine

Spring / Summer 2009. "Bringing Renaissance to Rochester"

Gannet Newspapers, Democrat & Chronicle.

2005 Review by Shirley Dawson

Rochester Magazine

November / December 2007. "The Art of Community Building"

Wolfe Publications

1996. Interior's Issue

Rochester Business Magazine

1995. Executive Homes issue

Photo of a 30' x 12' ceiling mural on the cover with a featured article



Wolfe Publications

1994. Fall Homes Issue

Designs & Display Trade Magazine

1992. Article on Mann's Jewelers featuring Ricks ceiling mural "The Creation of Gemstones"

Gannet Newspapers Democrat & Chronicle

1992. Article on Water Street Grill Restaurant including Rick's work

Upstate Magazine

1989 "Upstate Update" on Ricks career

City Newspaper

1988. City Homes Issue. "The look of 1906 with an 80's Twist" Feature Article on artist's home

Gannet Newspapers, Upstate Magazine

1986 "Faux Real" Cover photo and feature article on Rick's work and career