

Mike Callahan



Mike Callahan lives near Reno, Nevada. He paints subjects ranging from North American wildlife, Western themes, Sierra landscapes and classical portraiture. He paints in oil on canvas using a limited palette of three colors plus white.

Regarding his landscapes, Mike says, "Aside from the multitude of adventures I had growing up in the spectacular playground of the Sierras, I drew and painted early-on as well. I found great joy in bringing that with which I was so enamored on the inside to the outside watching the passion spread to others as their eyes drank up the images I put down on canvas."

Of his portraits, he notes, "I paint portraits classically, usually in single source lighting, oil on linen. I endeavor to capture the essence of the person in a way that can only be done in paint. People fascinate me and I strive to transfer that fascination onto the canvas preserving it for generations to enjoy."

Mike also currently holds a day job as Technical Graphics Trainer for the world's largest manufacturer of slot machines responsible for the training and progression of some thirty plus artists as well as the innovation, development and implementation of new production techniques utilizing Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Mike has been in the graphics industry for over twenty years but recently has begun a return to his first love - oil painting.

To see Mike's work in-depth, find out about current exhibitions and to gain a fuller glimpse into this artist's life, please visit his website at <http://www.mikecallahanart.com>.

Artist's Statement

"How dull might the world be without clouds and mountains and trees? How utterly drab without people, animals, lakes and streams? And how lifeless the walls that surround us without paintings of such things to take their places when we can't immediately go and see them?"

"I am compelled to paint such things; inspiring things that evoke memories or spark the imagination keeping the insipid well at bay..."

"I have been drawing and painting since my early childhood. My family has always been supportive of my art so I was encouraged to draw and paint growing up. One of my favorite things that I was privileged to do was to go to painting lessons once a week after school. I was also privileged to grow up in one of the most beautiful and diverse areas in the world – the Reno-Tahoe area. I grew up out in the sticks and I think that has had a definite influence on the subject matter I most often choose to paint – Sierra landscapes.

"Each painting I do is an extension of myself. There is something nagging at me on the inside that just has to come out and be put down on the canvas - something that's more than you could photograph, more than you could even manipulate digitally. If I can't paint I get antsy.

“Painting is an amazing thing. A good painting has the ability to arrest a viewer’s attention and hold it for a while. Like a good book, a good painting can transport you elsewhere. I try to make each painting dramatic, not the cheesy kind of dramatic, but the awe inspiring dramatic that makes you want to stop and look twice. I try to make my landscapes somewhere you want to be.

“Each painting is also a growth piece; I’m continually striving and attempting to grow. Where I want to be as a painter always seems to be ten paces ahead of where I currently am. I suspect it will be like this ‘til I’m too old to hold a brush. At different phases of my life, I’ve allowed painting to be put on the back burner. I’ve resolved to not let this happen again. I paint most every day. Life for me is better that way.

“More of my artwork and contact information is on my website, www.mikecallahanrt.com”