



Focused on capturing natural beauty, artist Richard Berger paints another masterpiece.

RICHARD D. BERGER

By Whitney Nichole Stevens

Good artists, painters in particular, come once in a lifetime. This time around, we are blessed with an artist who has more artistic ability in his pinky finger than most have in their whole bodies. Richard D. Berger is someone who needs no introduction, because quite frankly, his work speaks for itself.

Richard Berger defines himself as a "classically trained and inspired artist" and has been painting for as long as he can remember. "I never decided to be an artist; it was always something that was a part of me. For me, becoming an artist was not so much of a decision of 'being' but rather a decision to continually be overcome by the truth and beauty of nature," Berger said. From the brain to the stroke of his paint brush, Richard Berger creates works of art infused with passion. Berger says he is inspired by "knowing that art has the ability to transcend its viewer, to move them spiritually and emotionally, to express ideas that cannot be expressed by words, and to bring to life those who have passed on."

An alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Berger is a Monmouth County native and works as a commissioned based artist. "One of my interests lies in the history of Monmouth County, and I have a conscious intention to preserve that history through the art of painting," Berger said. To this end he has done a number of paintings of Monmouth Battlefield over the past several years, as well as other places in the area including Thompson Manor before it became victim to fire. Art lovers describe and note Berger's work for its attention to craft, for its representation of light and atmosphere, and for its symbolism.

Berger spent a portion of his artistic career in Florence, Italy, the birthplace of the Renaissance, perfecting his craft. While in Italy, Berger re-dedicated his life to painting and drawing with a traditional basis of perception, craft, and allegory. He specializes in custom portraits, still life and landscape paintings, and sacred arts. He describes his work as "honest, unpretentious, and original. It is honest because every work is made in accordance with a particular idea, it is unpretentious because it speaks in a language known to all, and it is original because it has its origins in the use of classical

motifs as a means to express subject matter."

In the future, Richard Berger plans to have a workshop based on the master/apprentice system where students learn by doing and working under his guidance on works of art as a "team." This system was the art education system used up until the twentieth century and produced many great artists. "I am dedicated to making quality work that can be understood by everyone in its context. Art is my vocation. It is a passion, but it is also a job. I continually try to better myself, and my work, as any other worker would do in their field."

Berger is a great talent and is a highly respected artist in his field. For more information on Richard Berger, visit his website at www.RichardBergerStudio.com.

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Monmouth Battleground Fantasy



In Matrimonium MMI



Ecce Homo



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