

Nicholas Petrucci



Continuing the Legacy . . .

Portraits and Commissioned Paintings

60 Seagate Dr., #406, Naples, Florida 34103 239-649-6235
PetrucciNicholas@aol.com www.NicholasPetrucci.com

ArtExpo New York, 2009

SOLO Booth #408

Classical Portraits

EXHIBITOR BACKGROUND:

BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Petrucci's portraits and other paintings are primarily commissioned works. His paintings and drawings have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries throughout the Midwest and the southeast. In addition, his commissioned work is in corporate, public and private collections throughout the United States and abroad. Nicholas lectures and leads workshops on classical art and portraiture.

SELECTED PRIVATE AND CORPORATE COMMISSIONS & COLLECTIONS:

Clyde Butcher, Everglades Photographer & Conservationist, 6' x 4' Oil on Board, Ochopee, FL

Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, Primatologist, Conservationist, Visionary, 6' x 4' Oil on Board, The Jane Goodall Institute

Her Honor, Mrs. H. A. Balogun, Esq., 24" x 20" Oil on Linen, Lagos, Nigeria

Transition, Mrs. Jennifer Vear Hoy, 48" x 36" Oil on Linen, Naples, FL

The Merchant, Mr. Maurice Jump, 30" x 24" Oil on Linen

Dama De', 28" x 22" Oil on Linen

The Patriot, c. 1942, Mrs. J. N. Barrow, 31" x 27" Oil on Linen, Naples, FL

Luna Piena (Full Moon), 72" x 42" Oil on Linen

Mrs. Myra Janko Daniels, Founder, CEO and President, The Philharmonic Center for the Arts, 66" x 48" Oil on Linen, Naples, FL

Il Tuono/Thundering, 72" x 42" Oil on Linen

Thy Will Be Done, 72" x 42" Oil on Linen, Mr. James Barrow

CURRENT WORK IN PROGRESS:

Father Michael Basden, Pastor, Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida

Naples Winter Wine Festival auction package #72, Naples, FL, Jan. 25 – 27, 2008.
Successful Bid: \$130,000.00.

Greg Mortenson, Building Schools for Peace, Author of Three Cups of Tea.

Exhibit and Lecture Series aboard the condominium ship, "The World."

AWARDS AND HONORS

Nicholas' paintings have been featured in American Art collector, Southwest Art, Estate Lifestyles, Naples Art & Antiques, Naples Winter Wine Festival, Showcase Southwest Florida Entertainment, Bonita Banner and others. Nicholas lectures at museums and aboard ships on classical art. His paintings and drawings have won highest honors in competitions throughout the country.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Portrait Society

Oil Painters of America

EDUCATION:

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

University of Illinois

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Born: Champaign, Illinois

ARTIST'S BACKGROUND – HIS INSPIRATION, HIS STYLE, HIS VISION:

My interest in art has always been in the Great Masters. Rembrandt and Caravaggio are masters of light, of drama and of emotion. I share their philosophy concerning integrity and authenticity, and as experienced practitioners of life and tradition, they continue to teach me their craft. I believe there will be a paradigm shift in these uncertain times back to the clarity of the wisdom of the Old Masters; in essence, a renaissance of beauty.

Polonius in William Shakespeare's Hamlet articulated my guiding principal: 'This above all: to Thine Own Self Be True.'" Thus I have followed Robert Frost's Road Not Taken, the road, for me, in the shadow of the Great Masters, shunning the easy road.

Through a tour [of my recent work on my web site] I hope you will understand my philosophy of painting – why I chose my subjects and how I chose to depict each of them. The common thread throughout is that each is benefiting the world in some way. I also hope the paintings offer you a moment of reflection on a very personal level.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Two influences determined my direction in art. The first was being fortunate to visit several art museums in Europe as a child. I was impressed by the drama and technical mastery of the Old Masters that seem to make the paintings so life-like. Because the classical skills were not offered at the university level during my art education, I began to study the concepts of traditional painting on my own, to teach myself the language of what seemed to be the lost art of classical portraiture. This research taught me to incorporate grace, beauty and dignity into my paintings, the very attributes I admired as a child.

The second influence came from Oscar Wilde in The Picture of Dorian Gray; "To paint life's experiences into each portrait." He validated my choices with his statement, "Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only beauty," as did Pope John Paul II with "Artists express themselves to the point where their work becomes a unique disclosure of their own being." Both together formed my direction and passion in portraiture.

Therefore, I believe that to create a beautiful likeness that reveals our own character is what makes a painting memorable.

MEDIUM:

Oil on Linen and Oil on Board, true to the style of Rembrandt and the Great Masters

PRICE RANGE:

Limited Edition Giclee' Prints from \$850.00

Original Oil paintings from \$15,000 to \$45,000

BOOTH NUMBER:

Solo Booth **#408**

ArtExpo NewYork, Javits Center, New York City, Feb. 26 – Mar. 2, 2009

WHY NICHOLAS PETRUCCI?

WHAT IS INTERESTING AND COMPELLING ABOUT HIS WORK?

Nicholas Petrucci's museum quality portraits and other paintings are pure beauty, emotion and drama. He does not follow current trends in contemporary art. Instead, Petrucci sees a return to classicism, which he considers the purest and truest form of art. Legendary 17th Century artists painted with exquisite technique, elegance, majesty and drama to depict their subjects, as does he. His subjects benefit the world in some way. Nicholas' Legacy is to offer people an opportunity to immortalize another person, a person who has made a difference in the world, by sponsoring a portrait of that person. "I strive to be involved with local, national and international programs that encourage environmental and artistic education and the health, welfare and education of needy children and adult." Thus Nicholas Petrucci proudly supports a number of charitable organizations such as The Jane Goodall Institute, Big Cypress Preserve, Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, Naples children & Education Foundation, Inc., and others listed on his web site.

Jane Goodall, Ph. D., DBE, changed science forever, and redefined what it is to be human. To this day she works tirelessly to protect the chimpanzees she has studied for 50 years. Nicholas' portrait will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of her studies (1960 – 2010) and raise money for Jane's work.

Clyde Butcher, Everglades icon and large format black and white photographer, has dedicated his life to revealing the beauty and fragility of the Everglades ecosystem.

Transition, Jennifer Vear Hoy, is a major benefactor of Rotary International, and Rotary's objective is service.

Her Honor, Mrs. H. A. Balogun, Esq., is a prominent jurist in Nigeria, serving as Attorney General, President of the Bar Association, representing Africa at the Lockerbie Trial in Holland, and serving as president on countless humanitarian and charitable boards and committees. She has fought tirelessly for justice in the world.

The Patriot c. 1942 is of a woman entirely devoted to conservation, a leader in conservation photography, and a person who has discovered a new species of lemur in Madagascar and worked to conserve the species, the habitat and improve the lot of the people living there.

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES ATTACHED:

Jane Goodall, Ph. D., DBE, 6' x 4' Oil on Board

When I first met Jane Goodall I saw a delicate beauty with translucent skin, a gentle manner, intelligent and spiritual. The years had not robbed her of her radiance. My first instinct was to be her protector. However, when she spoke I could see a woman of strong resolve, impenetrable optimism, a visionary whose work and dedication had to be protected and projected far into the future. Several years later when Jane sat for her portrait, I sensed longing from the heart of Africa. I knew the painting had to say who Jane was, and that she had to feel at home in her painting, in Africa with its living and breathless beauty. I heard in Jane's silence, "Embrace me with my precious forest, let my vision and hope live on." I wanted to honor this woman whose journey has been one of light and love and the expectation of a better world. Her painting evolved almost magically. She sits in a place not unlike the one where her work began 50 years ago, strong and firm on the earth, but she looks into an uncertain future. It began with the hand of David Greybeard reaching toward her, journeyed through an understanding of our nearest relatives, the chimpanzees, to her protection of all chimps and all living things. Now David Greybeard, looking down in reverence, protects Jane. I hope I have, in my small way, paid homage to a beautiful and wonderful soul.

*The 6 x 4 ft. commissioned portrait of **Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE**, featured at ArtExpo New York 2009 was produced to help her and the world benefit from her 50 years of research and conservation at Gombe Stream chimpanzee research site. 2010 is her 50th Year Anniversary Celebration. Visit her site: www.JaneGoodall.com During the ArtExpo show there will be an informal unveiling of Jane's portrait. Several of her Board members and other supporters will be attending, though Jane herself will be in India. Jane selected Nicholas to do her portrait because of their shared commitment to a safe, sane, gentle and greener world. Please visit Nicholas' web site www.NicholasPetrucci.com to see his commitment to people who, like Jane, make it a better, more livable planet.*

Clyde Butcher, Everglades Photographic Artist, 6' x 4' Oil on Board

Clyde Butcher and I met in the swamp to arrange a suitable site for his full length portrait. While we were discussing the light Clyde happened to mention his other guest sleeping under the warm rays of the Florida sun not more than twenty feet from us. I remained composed only because I knew the gator would probably be satisfied with the slowest runner. I took an immediate liking to Clyde not just because he reminded me of Santa Claus but also because I respect his work, found him to be more than charming and one of those fellows who is happy to extend a helping hand when needed. Clyde Butcher is often

compared to Ansel Adams for his black and white photography. He understands the beauty of our natural wonders and I knew I had spent my afternoon with a great artist.

*The 6 x 4 ft commissioned portrait of **Clyde Butcher of the Everglades** celebrates Clyde's life and work of commitment to conservation of our unique wetland habitat, the entire Everglades ecosystem (basically, all of south Florida). Clyde's medium is large format black and white photography to tell the story of the 'Glades, so Nicholas used a combination of black and white painting, a suggestion of the mystery of the Everglades, and the light on him and how he brings light to these once-reviled swamplands. He also is emerging into light from his own personal tragedy, the tragedy that brought him to the Florida swamps. He and Nicholas are of one mind: conservation, and reaching people by showing them beauty. Please see Clyde's web site, too: www.ClydeButcher.com*

Her Honor, Mrs. H. A. Balogun, Esq., , Lagos, Nigeria, 24" x 20" Oil on Linen

Wisdom. That is the one word best describing prominent Nigerian jurist, Mrs. Hairat Aderinsola Balogun, former Attorney General of Lagos State, former President of the Nigerian Bar Association, former UN appointed observer at the Lockerbie Trial in Holland, and two-time hajji (having made the pilgrimage to Mecca twice). This painting was made right after her second pilgrimage. It has been said that the red scarf could move with the slightest breeze or as she dances to the beat of her homeland. Most of all, Ade is all woman and all kindness. It is said of the portrait of Ade, "There is an ancient love and respect here that I have not seen before. Whatever emptiness abides in me is filled when I look at her. . . the absolute grace and wedding of the subject and painter lies beyond the intellectual, but not the emotional comprehension." Ade's entire life is dedicated to justice under the law for all.

Transition, Mrs. Jennifer Vear Hoy, 48" x 36" Oil on Linen

Jennifer is caught in a moment of reflection on what used to be and what may be. The light is ethereal, creating a luminescence that emphasized her momentary fragility. I thought it best to surround her with a touch of gentle familiarity and softness, her own cushions. She looks vulnerable, but not in a helpless way. She has great strength, like children have, wide-eyed wonder. They may be a little afraid, but you know they are going to go for it anyway. I think we all cross this road at different times in our lives and Jennifer shows her

strength in this painting by acknowledging no matter what life sets before her she has the strength and vitality to move forward. I believe the essence of this painting is the paragon it represents for all women, and reason we warriors of the world believe they are our true home.

The Patriot c. 1942, 31" x 27" Oil on Linen

During World War II and immediately after patriotism was easy to define and identify, as was good and evil. My wife modeled for this painting, and I think it captures her sauciness, her loving character and the concept of Patriotism in the middle of the last century. When she is not examining the idea of Patriotism, she is entirely devoted to her craft as a conservation photographer and lecturer. One of the highlights of her career was the discoverer of a new species of lemur in Madagascar where she also worked to conserve the species, the habitat and improve the lot of the people living there. Her two books explore the beauty and need for conservation of the unique south Florida swamp habitat. I could not paint her without her amazing smile. It is Connie.

Dama De', 28" x 22" Oil on Linen

Dama De' is both a yoga teacher and a fire dancer, and I see both in this portrait – the serenity of the yogi and the dramatic intensity of the fire dancer. She is gazing off canvas, perhaps on a new born baby. It is the look I have only seen on a woman – softness, courage, and the coming beauty of her own motherhood.

The Merchant, Maurice Jump, 30" x 24" Oil on Linen

Maurice Jump's preference would have been to live in the 16th Century. He requested that I paint his portrait as if his home were in The Netherlands. When he saw the underpainting in the Verdaccio method he asked if we could leave it in this stage. I said 'yes.' But at least to allow me to paint the broach, and we concluded the painting. It haunts the viewer. Does the portrait beckon you to approach or retreat? I believe this portrait forces us to recognize our own truth.

First Love, 24" x 30" Oil on Canvas

Has portraiture really changed over the years? I think not. Nor has the bonding between mother and child changed for those who have been fortunate to experience it. I sought to create an intimate and personal view of the bonding of a particular mother and child, and simultaneously, a universal depiction of a child's first love, his mother, and the astounding spirituality of that love.

Thy Will Be Done, 6' x 4' Oil on Linen

The six-foot high figure of a man at the moment of choice between good and evil is a spiritually-inspired and gripping depiction, not of a particular saint's defining moment, but of the daily choices we all make between right and wrong, between good and evil. Its real strength is its overwhelming spirituality. It can be experienced on multiple levels – a beautiful figure of a man in turmoil as well as the allegorical images creeping into the viewer's consciousness as one gazes at the painting. "Thy Will Be Done" should be felt rather than analyzed to grasp its full impact. The painting won in the 9th Annual Judeo-Christina Juried International Art Exhibition. Of 'Thy Will Be Done,' the juror wrote: "Nicholas Petrucci of Naples, FL is [a] master artist. . . "Thy Will Be Done" says it all, that God is in control. The violet and gold color scheme add to the elegance and the eyes looking upward with the folded hands shows a kind of trust in Divine Providence."

Il Tuono/Thundering, 6' x 4' Oil on Linen

This piece's starting point was in a dream. I rose in the middle of the night to give it form. I could see a full size black stallion galloping majestically ahead of a storm directly towards the viewer. I wanted to add to the sensation that the horse was about to jump out of its frame and into your living space so I dropped the hoof below the canvas. It is as if the beauty of the night has given birth and endowed this horse with a sense of regal power. The conflict between the calmness of the horse and the gathering storm not far behind, his strength shattering the forbidding solitude of the night, and the wisdom in his eye against the unknown, endow this painting with absolute serenity and grace. Some have called it my self-portrait.

Nicholas Petrucci at the Easel

Other images at www.NicholasPetrucci.com or contact:

**Connie Bransilver
239.649.6235 239.405.2003 (Cell)
Bransilver@aol.com**