

RICHARD A. SCHMID 1934- 2021

American artist and author Richard Schmid was regarded by many as the world's most influential artist. During his distinguished sixty plus career, Richard was the recipient of nearly every major American fine art award. His paintings were exhibited in more than fifty one-person Art shows and in 2003, Richard received a Doctorate of Fine Arts Degree from the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in Lyme, Connecticut.

While living in the mountains of Bellvue, Colorado, he created the annual *RICHARD SCHMID FINE ART AUCTION* to benefit the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. He and the other artists who were inspired by Richard's art and knowledge, helped raise over \$1.7 million dollars. Proceeds from the auctions enabled the volunteer firefighters to purchase state-of-the art equipment, all without a single penny from taxes.

Similarly, when Schmid served as President of The Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Art in Chicago, he helped perpetuate the non-profit organization—the second oldest art organization in the U.S. As President, his paintings and leadership skills helped double its membership, raise money, and launch new programs in Representational painting and other fine art techniques.

Richard Schmid's exceptional expertise in "Alla Prima painting directly from life," inspired his decade-long effort to document and share his profound knowledge, resulting in his 1998 best-selling book, *ALLA PRIMA: EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PAINTING*. Responding to reader inquiries, he greatly expanded and published *ALLA PRIMA II, EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PAINTING—AND MORE*. His volumes are recognized as a cornerstone in art instruction worldwide. These comprehensive guides have had a lasting impact on classical art education, earning acclaim both in the United States and internationally.

In 2001, Schmid painted a portrait of the late Senator James Jeffords of Vermont, while simultaneously interviewing the senator before a live audience. Their combined wisdom and wit and Schmid's respect for Jeffords inspired him to produce a short documentary: *AN AMERICAN PORTRAIT: THE SENATOR & THE ARTIST*.

As Chairman and founder of his company, Stove Prairie Press, LLC, Richard Schmid firmly believed in publishing his books in the United States, thereby helping our economy and fellow citizens by employing only U.S. companies.

Schmid's major awards include the \$100,000 National Arts for the Parks Award, presented to him by then VP President George H.W. Bush; as well as numerous lifetime achievement awards, including the John Singer Sargent Medal, presented by Richard Ormond, John Singer Sargent's grand-nephew.

In 2012 he completed his oil *ABBOTSFORD HOUSE —The home of Sir Walter Scott*. The 30” x 50” master work was presented to Queen Elizabeth II of England at the Royal Opening of Abbotsford’s new visitor center in Melrose, Scotland, by Kristen Thies, his emissary and Fine Art representative in 2013.

On his 80th birthday, Richard received thousands of thank you cards and well wishes from artists and collectors from more than 40 countries worldwide, in celebration of his book *ALLA PRIMA II: EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PAINTING - AND MORE*, and in gratitude for his work to further traditional painting techniques and excellence in fine art.

SELECTED AWARDS OF DISTINCTION:

The John Singer Sargent Medal for Lifetime Achievement presented by Richard Ormond, Sargent’s grandnephew at the American Portrait Artists Foundation Conference in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY.

Gold Meda awards from The Salmagundi Club, The American Watercolor Society, and The Portrait Society of America.

The Centennial Gold Medal from the California Arts Club for Schmid’s vast contributions in cultivating greater appreciation for traditional fine arts.

The \$100,000 Arts for the Parks Competition award for his oil, Rocky Mountain Stream, Rocky Mountain National Park. The prize was presented to him by then Vice President, George H. W. Bush in 1988.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

The Smithsonian National Museum, Washington, DC; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Beijing Center for the Arts, China; Richard Schmid Exhibition, The Bennington Center for The Arts, Vermont 2000; The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH, 2003; The American Exhibition of Richard Schmid’s paintings at The Wichita Center for the Arts, Wichita, KS, 2012; A Celebration of Paintings Exhibition, hosted by West Wind Fine Art at The St. Botolph Club, Boston, MA, 2014; Richard Schmid: A Retrospective Exhibition at Gallery 2161, in Denver, CO in 2016, and A Tribute to Richard Schmid, hosted by West Wind Fine Art and curated by Kristen Thies in Bennington, VT in 2018.

Richard Schmid lived and worked in Walpole, NH with his wife, acclaimed artist, Nancy Guzik and their two cats, LuLu and Max II. Before his passing in April of 2021, he established the RICHARD SCHMID FINE ART FOUNDATION and entrusted his wife artist, Nancy Guzik and the RSFAF Board members to carry-out his legacy, and pass his knowledge on to future generations. Schmid’s mission statement is, *ART HAS THE POWER TO DO GOOD*.

