Richard Franklin

Neo-classical paintings were reintroduced to the modern art world by Richard Franklin (1961-1997). His art is inexorably linked with the Old Masters of the seventeenth century and the neo-classical school of paintings. In the late 1980’s and early 1990’s Franklin pioneered a movement back to the classics that art dealers, galleries, designers and other artist all over the nation emulated. Richard Franklin was fascinated with the human figure. He went to life-drawing classes regularly, taught portrait-in-oil, worked toward mastery in sculpture, etching, photography and neo-classical painting. Franklin spent several years of his childhood in European countries. He spent his youth in awe of the fresco-style washes, textures and contrasts in paintings and murals of the Old Masters. He did not realize this early training would have a profound affect on his choice of career later in life.

Richard Franklin appreciated what time could do to canvasses. The appearance of an old crumbling wall adds character to his work and incorporates some faux decrepitude in his strokes. His paintings reflect heart and soul on every canvas. He recaptures the enduring beauty and balance of a timeless curve of the human body.

Poetry of the nineteenth century was a great inspiration to Franklin. He titled several of his paintings after characters: Thisbe, Eos, Donna Velata and Flora. He was also captivated by Greek Mythology. He painted the emotions he felt from each story, such as: Aphrodite, Pan’s Song, Electra and Adonis. Franklin was a sensitive and deep thinking man. He depicted the emotions and feelings of each figure he painted.

Richard Franklin was killed in a small plane accident in 1997, at the peak of his artistic career. He was 35 years of age. Richard left us with numerous original paintings and a fine graphics program yet to be completed.