



Anthony J. Abreu GALLERY

WITH ANTHONY ABREU IT'S ALL IN *Detail*

Long before he was selling his work in the mountains of Northeast Georgia, artist Anthony Abreu was fly finishing streams in the area he now calls home. The knack of casting the line, the patience and attention to minutia that it takes to fish for trout is not unlike those traits necessary to produce paintings with the detail found in Anthony Abreu's canvases.

In his case, a picture truly is worth at least one thousand words; each of them unique and loudly expressive.

The artist in black, on the day of this interview, is anything but black in his paintings that exude light and color and texture and shadow – all in the proper proportion and balance to ensure that there is life and light even in darkness.

Except for his brief flirtation at a very early age with learning to play the guitar – a skill he also later mastered -- Anthony has always been about art. He was painting when he was six, won his first competition when he was 16 and, as an adult, was creating conceptual art for such well-known names as Disney and Firestone. His natural proclivity for the painted canvas was structured by the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, FL. Further validation and encouragement came from no less than the late, renowned Americana artist Norman Rockwell who coun-



My Pals



Sarah & Cody

The Master's Tie





seled Anthony "to never give up his art, and to always continue painting."

That he heeded those words of encouragement from one of the American "Masters" can be found in the oil paintings and watercolors that are now held in private and corporate collections throughout the Southeast and as far west as New Mexico.

Anthony believes that each painting should tell a story, should encourage interaction between the viewer and the canvas in such a way that the story behind the painting is also revealed.

In his publicity material, he explains that each piece begins in his imagination and for weeks, maybe longer, he lives in each story he wants to convey on canvas. "I've always tried to inject expression into my paintings so they will reach people's hearts and speak directly to them."

Early on, the artist received his inspiration from paintings by the Old European Masters that he found in the Bible in his family's home. He was fascinated by their style, the way in which these artists alternated dark and light, the depth that brushstrokes give to the piece. "How'd he do that?" he would ask himself. It was these works that first whetted the creative desire within him and, when he began to paint seriously, Anthony recalled with clarity how the attention to detail, the subtle differences that color and the texture contribute, how his imagination was captured by just such perfection. It became his goal as well.

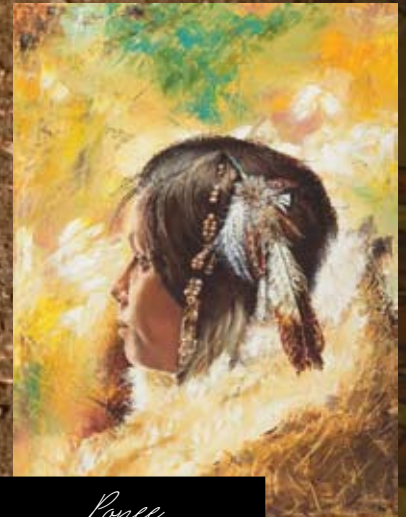
He explains that black is not a color that he uses in his paintings. Instead, he uses dark brown to achieve the same essence and subtle hints of blue to achieve the skin tones he wants.

While he estimates that he's created some 200 paintings during his personal career, Anthony still believes there's more to do. "From the first day I ever picked up a pencil and a piece of paper, I've been challenged and motivated to paint my next picture just a little bit better."

Collectors who have found themselves mesmerized by canvases branded the distinctive Abreu signature hold their breath waiting to see how he achieves that goal, confident that he will.

by John Shivers

Find Anthony Abreu's work at Abreu Fine Art Gallery, 497 East Main Street in historic downtown Blue Ridge, GA 30513. Contact him by phone at 706.946.3278 and log on to his web site, www.abreufineartgallery.com, to learn more about the artist.



Ponce



Legend of Croft Mountain



Anthony Abreu

"When I paint it is because I am totally inspired, to know exactly where your eyes will go when you look at the canvas. When you look at a painting from the Appalachian collection, I want to be sure you feel the rugged simplicity of the setting and circumstances."



Yesteryears