

# off the wall gallery

paintings · sculpture · original prints



## BRUNO ZUPAN Painter

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Bruno Zupan** was born in Slovenia in 1939. He graduated from the Art Institute in Zagreb and decided at the age of twenty-three to leave home and continue his education in Paris. In 1964 he left Paris for New York where he began a series of one-man exhibitions of his work in American museums and galleries.

Although Zupan is a citizen of the United States, he has not abandoned his desire to explore other parts of the world. He has painted the vibrant colors of Mexico, has returned annually to Paris and Venice, and has established his main studios in the village of Valldemossa on the island of Mallorca. Many of his subjects are found just beyond his door. He greatly enjoys an anti-urban Mediterranean lifestyle which gives free reign to his desire to glorify the everyday things which have given pleasure to Homer, to Byron, to Sargent, and Chopin ... sunlight on a broken column, the perfume of almond blossom, the wet wind of spring or the smell of the sea. He is part and product of this immortal seasonal flux, and he wants his paintings to be messages from a place of rest and renewal.

Zupan is a profoundly contemporary man delicately poised between two worlds: fascinated by the dynamic tension of American culture, yet unable to deny the quiet sensuality of Europe. As the list of exhibitions demonstrates he has achieved wide exposure and critical acclaim on two continents culminating in several singular honors. In 1976 he was awarded life membership in the Society of French Artists, and in 1981 and 1991 he received special commissions to create first day covers for the World Federations of United Nations Associations. American Artist has published an extensive article about his work. He has published fifty graphic images in Paris and Mallorca.

*"Zupan's muse is light. Light is the source of color. Forms are composed of shape and color. Mallorca, and Venice are blessed with exceptionally clear light. He is a besotted lover of these landscapes which he never tires of painting. He selects a subject rather objectively from the many possibilities that surround him. Once his materials are assembled, the day perfect, his mind clear, he becomes entranced in the act of capturing the subject with his brush strokes. He is quite incapable of conversation during the execution of a painting. He speaks in colors, and the brushes become extensions of his hand. The muse compels the painting by exhibiting supernatural beauty. The artist, her mortal messenger, strives to capture that fleeting presence with his brush. Sprat, dash, thrust and splatter are forms of love making. He looks at the painting the night and morning after completion and puts it away. He does not exist with the painting much longer. That great explosion of energy and concentration, compressed desire and triumph, is done. The next day he will take a blank canvas and go out again to repeat the creative act until exhaustion overtakes him. When he views the painting months, or years, later, that energy leaps from the surface. It never dies or lessens, but goes on beyond the moment of creation to repeat the message infinitely: Look! Respond! Worship with me, the painter, this earth upon which we have shared an intimate moment:"*

Excerpt from Bruno Zupan, *One Artist*

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### COLLECTIONS

#### *Public Collections*

American Ballet Theater  
American Family Life Assurance Corporation  
Bank of America  
The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia  
Colquitt County Arts Center, Moultrie, Georgia  
Columbus Bank and Trust Company  
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Georgia  
Macon Museum of Art  
Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, S.C.  
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
Museo de Arte de la Cartuja, Valldemossa  
Museo de Mallorca  
Oklahoma City Museum of Art  
Philatelic Museum, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
Schlumberger Corporation  
Synovus Financial Corp.  
Total System Services  
United Nations Headquarters, New York  
Valladarez Foundation  
Morris Museum, Augusta, Georgia  
Musée du Château d'Ars, La Châtre, France

#### *Private Collections*

S.A.R. Doña Pilar de Borbón  
Tom Brokaw  
Colleen Dewherst  
Charlotte Saunders  
Margot Fonteyn  
Frederick Franklin  
Marion Javits  
Erica Jong  
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent  
Bruno Magli  
Natasha Makarova  
HRH Princess Grace of Monaco  
The Perl Collection  
The Rockefeller Collection  
Condes de Montrico  
The Rothschild Collection  
Sheikha Alia Mubarak Al Sabah  
George C. Scott  
Hedrick Smith  
The Swarovski Family of Austria  
Baron H. H. Thyssen-Bornemiza  
Jacques Valenti  
Terry Vanderbilt  
Li Xiannian, President of the  
People's Republic of China