

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

MARK WAGNER

1991-1992 Artist-in-Residence
Alameda, California, USA

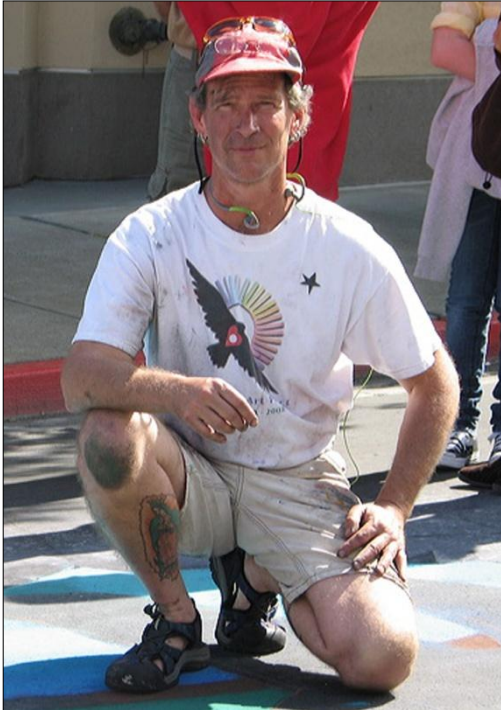


"Axis Mundi"

Date Acquired: 6/15/1992, Date Created: 1992
Framed Dimensions: Unframed, Picture Dimensions: 48 x 24"
Medium: Oil on Board

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Mark Wagner is a California artist, born in Pennsylvania, whose work is largely inspired by Native American Indian lore. A richer lore would be hard to find. His philosophy - "I demand more than sight to see. I believe that art is sacred and inseparable from life" - could be a rallying cry from artists everywhere. As a result of his association with the native people of South Dakota, he learned to look beyond his eyes, but it was in New Mexico that his work "became focused on the direct connection between nature, spirit, and the human race."

He has translated these insights into multi-layered images built up from exquisitely sensitive drawings enhanced with abstractions suggesting legend. His firmly rooted belief in man's relationship to Nature and Earth is manifest in his latest creations, totems presented in `trees.` His continuing quest for vision and meaning is carried out in a series of small paintings of humans, birds, and symbols, his creations so urgent, so pregnant with mystery, that he cannot finish one before starting another. Wagner's splendid sense of color, his ability to draw *anything*, and his fine notions of composition are best seen in his portraits of Native American Indian mythology. In these magnificent pictures, he honors and perpetuates Indian tradition and history as, I think, no other artist has ever done.

Mark Wagner is a traditional and digital artist, teacher, and father. Mark has been as a professional artist for over 20 years. He works in the film industry as a Concept Designer and Art Director, as well as being known internationally as an illustrator, graphic designer, and fine artist. Recent clients include the Smithsonian and Pixar. Mark received a Master's Degree from JFK University in "Arts and Consciousness" and a BFA from Pratt Institute in "Art & Design." He has taught art and creativity classes in graduate school, state prison, and created core curriculum for computer art schools. He recently completed illustrating and writing his first book "The Art of Being a Dad."