

The Wisdom of the Ages Revealed

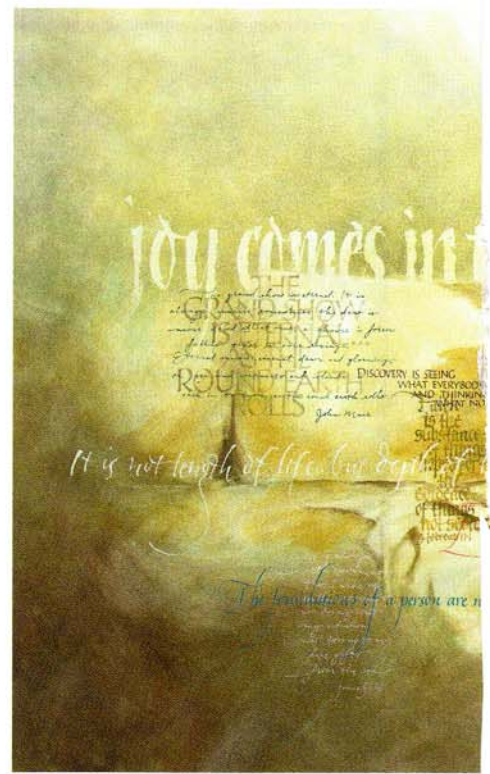
R by Kathleen McMillen

ANDALL HASSON IS A VERY curious person. You might even accuse him of being a little nosy, but in a nice way. He is curious about what generations before us have thought and believed and how that is relevant to what we do and how we think today. He is an artist by talent and trade and a humanist and philosopher by instinct.

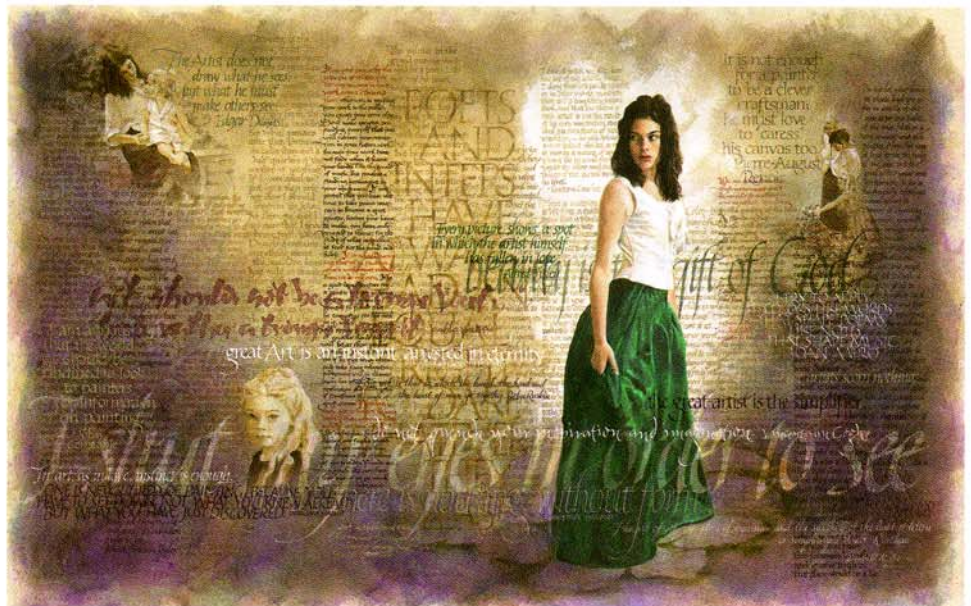
His large paintings integrate timeless symbolic images and portraits with a selection of quotes, which are painted in spectacular calligraphy. Each piece deals with a different aspect of life, whether it is family relationships, creativity, overcoming adversity, music, spirituality, or memories. The paintings are pieced together like a puzzle into one complex but cohesive unit, allowing the viewer to return again and again and still see things for the first time. The compositions are harmonic and, especially for word lovers, captivating.



Randall Hasson



First Light 43.5" x 58" Acrylic



L'Esprit 40" x 63.4" Acrylic

Art was Randy's focus in life until he found himself with a young family to support, weighing the options of a job with a successful insurance agency, or a future as a starving artist. The prospect of traveling around as a sales representative had always appealed to him so the choice was easy. He enjoyed his years in the business world and it gave him a terrific background for opening his own gallery. The big surprise though, was when he picked up his brushes to paint again after more than 15 years and discovered his painting had actually improved.

During the years he did not paint, Randy's hand kept busy building the artist's essential eye-

remember





The practice of calligraphy includes bookmaking and the mastering of hundreds of different 'hands,' which a layman would equate to a printing font. Practitioners must be familiar with a huge variety of pens, brushes, inks, papers, gold and silver leafing as well as the implementation of traditional and contemporary methods. While practicing an art seeped in tradition, Randy enjoys taking advantage of new materials such as acrylic ink and paint. Several years ago, he switched to canvas and began incorporating figures and images with calligraphy. He then experienced the proverbial "One thing led to another and the rest is history."

The route Randall Hasson's life took to become an artist and gallery owner may seem convoluted, but it was actually beneficial. The years he spent working with people, helping them with their insurance concerns, taught him a lot about people and life. He was not so much paying his dues as gaining the wisdom, experience, and compassion that make him the artist he is today.

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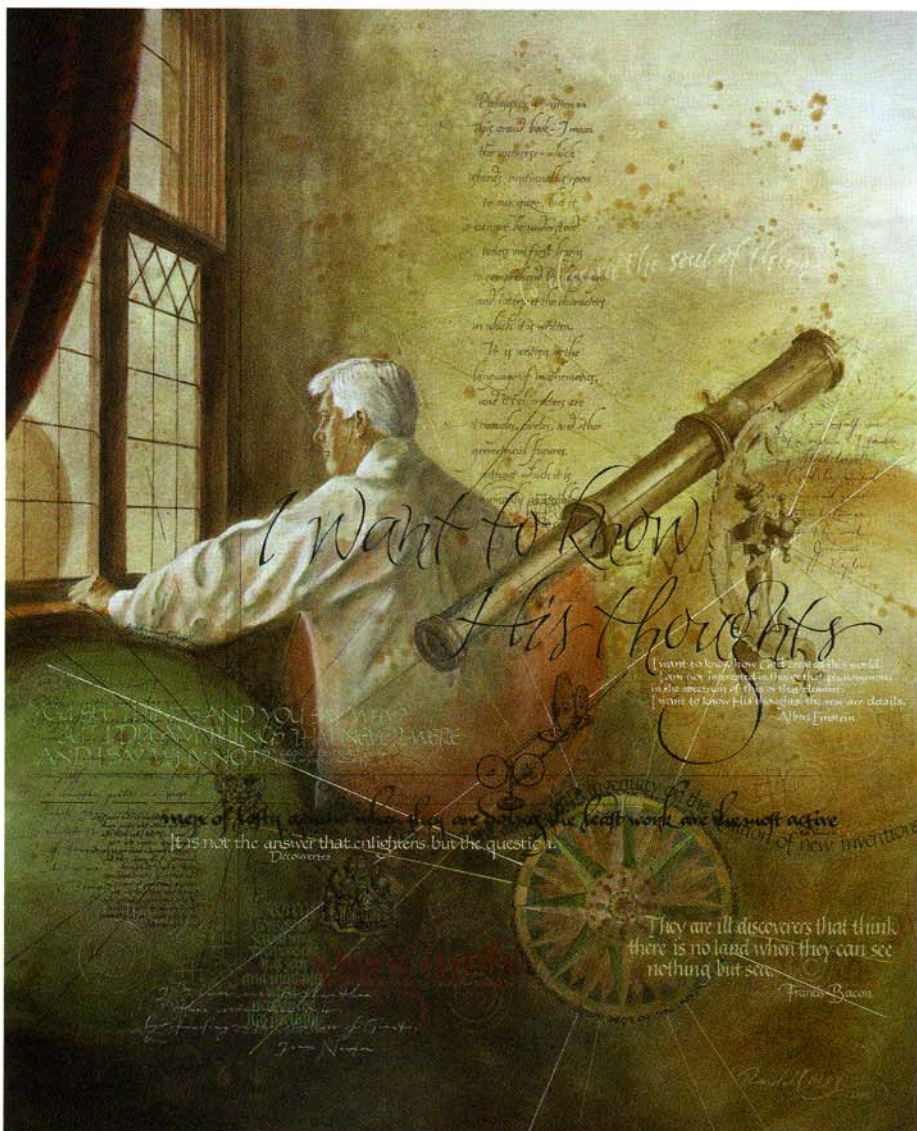
rest Light

to-hand coordination through his practice of calligraphy. He had discovered calligraphy as an art form through Timothy Botts' various books and went on to study with Marsha Brady, in Cerritos, where he completed the only accredited two-year course in calligraphy available in California.

It was his wife, Valerie, who insisted he begin to 'retire' from his insurance business and do art full time. A real-estate agent, she had discovered the perfect little studio on trendy South Cedros in Solana Beach. Little did she know that it would be the beginning of a creative outlet for her as well. Besides being an inspiration for his work in general, her poetry is quoted on several of his pieces, the focal text on "I Remember," and the only text on "Repentance."



I Remember 41" x 66" Acrylic



To Know His Thoughts 60" x 48" Acrylic

Artist Profile

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The key to Randy's work is research. "One of my favorite parts of the artistic process is the time spent collecting quotes and text and formulating the images before the painting is even begun," he said. "The study of a subject for which a painting will be developed, and the very act of writing the words about that subject allows me to internalize it and make it my own before beginning."

Since it takes at least three months of concentrated effort to complete each painting, Randy makes his work available as limited edition gicleé prints on either canvas or paper. Each print comes with an article about how he came to do the piece, all of the text used in the piece, and a listing of his resources. He has a considerable library, but being a true contemporary intellectual, he has found the Internet to be his best source of information.

Preferring to use live models, Randy is always looking for just the right face. He had long wanted to paint Valerie, but she always resisted. Finally, one morning he managed to snap a few photos of her enjoying her morning coffee in their sunlit living room. The result is "First Light," a painting about hope and inspiration represented by the light and time of day, with quotes from Victor Hugo, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Jonas Salk as well as many others. His daughter, Holly, the central figure in "L'Esprit," a painting about art and its profound effect on us, was a much more willing subject.

An expert calligrapher by anyone's standards, Randy serves on the Board of Directors for the International Calligraphy Conferences and regularly either teaches or lectures at these conferences, which draw people from all over the world. He is the recipient of many awards and honors. Furthermore, his work and articles have been published in a variety of books and magazines. He has participated in street painting festivals in Santa Barbara and Miami, and he recently participated in "The Urban Art Trail" and "The Benchmark Project" in San Diego. Recently he donated a painting titled "Triumph" to the Challenged Athlete's Foundation, the sales of which will be used as a fund-raising tool.

The Randall M. Hasson Studio and Gallery is located at 346 A South Cedros Avenue in Solana Beach. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday and all other times by appointment. Please call (858) 792-0902 for further information. ■

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