

THE BEST & THE BRIGHTEST

Meet six Arizona artists who've won awards at the Scottsdale Artists' School's annual alumni show

★ By Mark Mussari



MOUNTAIN SUNRISE, OIL, 24 X 18.

Christine Norman

A magical glow, reminiscent of the colors found in the works of Maxfield Parrish, emanates from many of the canvases of Christine Norman, a painter and sculptor who divides her time between Sedona and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. "When I paint, I'm trying to put the viewer in that spot," she says of her show-stopping landscapes, "so they can feel like I did." Her dramatic chromaticism, heavily dependent on bright oranges and cobalt blues, draws viewers even further into her paintings.

Born in Connecticut and raised in Southern California, Norman is mostly self-taught. When she started to paint, following a career in the music business, she refused to take any classes for the first four years. Then she started attending the Scottsdale Artists' School and the Sedona Arts Center. Oils quickly became her medium of choice. "Oils are malleable," she observes, "allowing me to paint from the heart." The strong emotional sense conveyed by her work also stems from her admiration for van Gogh's daring post-impressionist paintings. "His work is so expressive, so fluid, that I actually feel them," says Norman.

As a sculptor, Norman has experienced further success. Her bronze piece TWO ORPHANS, which won second place in The Best & Brightest show in 2008, was inspired by her affection for two fawns that, she says, adopted her.

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REPRESENTATION

Gifted Hands Gallery, Sedona, AZ;
Twisted Fish Art Gallery, Elk Rapids, MI;
www.cnormanart.com.

UPCOMING SHOW

Good Neighbor Organic Vineyard & Winery, Northport, MI, May-June.