



"Jukebox Heaven" Original Watercolor on Paper

**Q. I Hi John, I would like to learn more about your artistic development; at what age did you first discover your desire to create art? What was the medium that most appealed to you and why?**

JN. "As a young kid, I loved art. My mom used to sit down at the kitchen table, and draw with me. I used to watch John Nagy on TV; I bought all his books and practiced at home. When I graduated from eighth grade, my schoolmates inscribed my yearbook, "To a great artist...." I was so proud of that. But as I became an adolescent, I put my

watercolors and paint brushes aside and became a social bee who loved to write, act, make music and talk, talk, talk."

**Q. Were you encouraged to pursue a career in art?**

JN. "I was not encouraged to pursue a career in art. I came from a middle-class Midwestern family and was urged to chase careers that generated money and security. I began my profession career as a copywriter, and eventually became the world-wide creative director of a large multi-national advertising agency. It was mostly fun and paid very well. But after a while, it did feel a bit hollow, and I began to sense I was living in the movie, "Groundhog Day": same stuff, same meeting, same day.

4. Describe your feelings about the decision to devote all of your time to creating works of art.

For me, painting is a very scary high. There is no one to blame if it doesn't turn out right. It's just you, a piece of paper, and your medium.

The high comes from the fact that, here in America, one can reinvent himself or herself. For the longest time, all I did was select which juicy job option was presented to me. It's downright exhilarating to actually take life into your

own hands and decide which career course you truly wish to pursue.

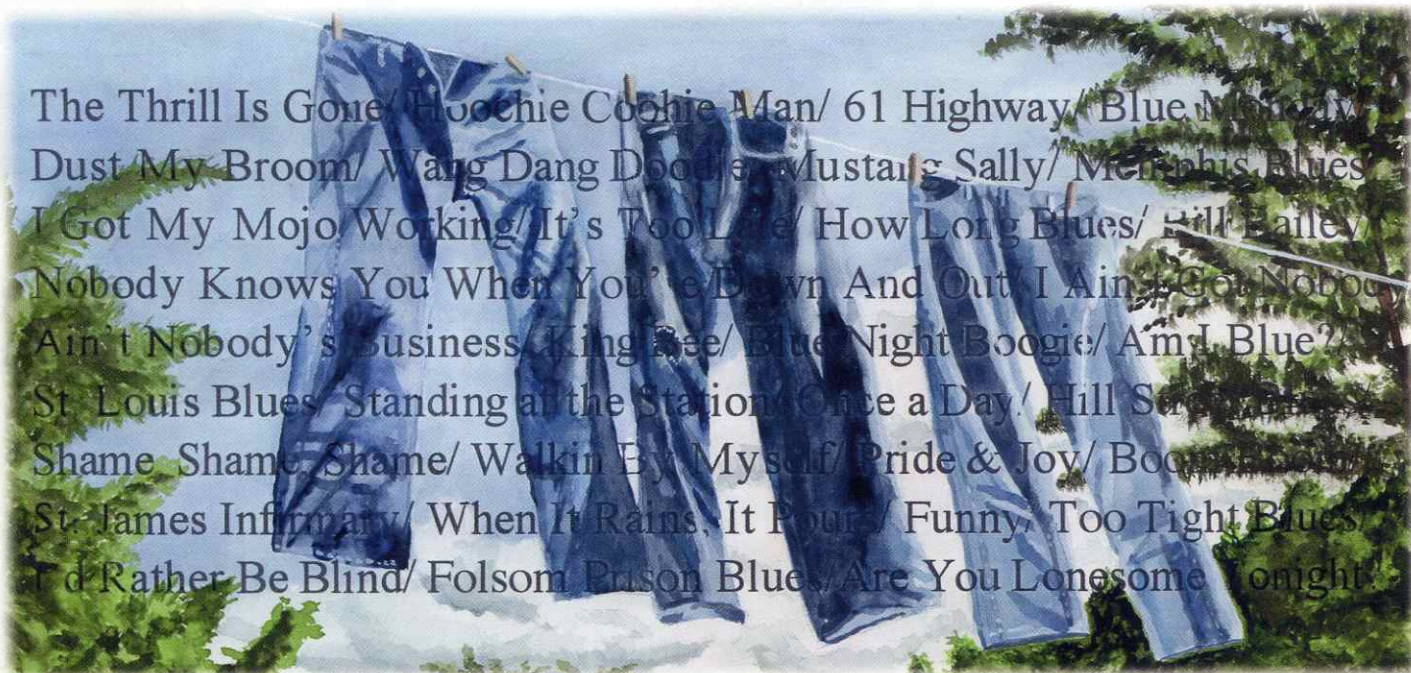
For a few years, I was a very private painter. I rarely shared my work. Most of my neighbors and friends had no idea what I was doing with my time. In that respect, I did not have the benefit a huge support group."

**Q. Do you feel that the desire to create art is intrinsic to our desire for immortality? In other words, do you feel that by creating a beautiful and poignant work of art that a part of us will live forever in our work? Or is the act of creation a simple exercise doing only what gives us most pleasure in that moment, or is it perhaps a little of both?**

JN. "For the most part, I paint to bring pleasure and awareness to someone today, but I admit to being seduced by that immortality thing. I have five kids. At the very least, I believe that when I am dead and gone, they'll be able to share some of my work with their own kids or grandkids. I have thought about that, and I love the thought."

Cont. Net Page

"Favorite Blues" Original Watercolor on Paper





Bacon & Lettuce & Tomato. The Lone Ranger & Tonto. Melinda & Louise.  
 John & Paul & George & Ringo. Tinker & Elyse & Charles. Fred & Jelly.  
 Groucho & Chico & Harpo (& Zeppo). Frank & Zoey. Ann & Clyde.  
 Hi & Lois. Lois & Clark. Lewis & Clark. The Picnic. The Melon. BLT.  
 Larry & Moe & Curly Joe. F. Scott & Zelda. Frank & Nancy & Jimmy, Jr.  
 Waylon & Willie & the boys. Hunter & Brandy. Peter & Paul & Mary.  
 Chandler & Monica & Ross & Rachel. The Beach. Phoebe. Stars & Stripes & Patch.  
 Ali & Frazier. Spanky & Alfalfa & Buckwheat & Darla. Robin Hood & Marian.  
 Jerry & Elaine & Kramer & George. Sears & Roebuck. Black & Blue.  
 Lucy & Ricky. Jimmy Durante & Mrs. Galassi, wherever you are.  
 Shake & Rattle & Roll. Martin & Lewis. Fred & Ginger. Mac & Cheese.  
 Lord & Taylor. Ham & Eggs. Mike & Ike. Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice.  
 Dashell Hammett & Lillian Hellman. Mack & Mabel. Frankie & Johnnie.  
 Nick & Nora Charles. Scotch & Soda. Lady & the Tramp. Jack & Bobby.  
 Maris & Mantle. David & Goliath. Penn & Teller. Benton & Bowles.  
 Ben & Jerry. Ham & Egg. The Fab Five. Red Nichols & the Five Pennies.

"Combos" Mixed Media by John Nieman

**Q. Do you have any advice for younger artists just starting out in life?**

*"I believe the only real sin in life is to have innate creative talent and waste it. In my evolved view, I believe that if you have such a gift, you must pursue it. So for young artists, I give the Nike advice: Just do it. Care less about selling*

*work, and care more about finding your voice or style. Seurat only created about five or six paintings, but they were damn good. I am told that Van Gogh never sold a single piece. So what? He kept at it. I think it's worth finding a personal style and mining it for all you can. I resisted this at first, and wanted to do a whole bunch of different things. Eventually, I discovered a niche that felt good, and have*

*found the artistic journey within that construct surprisingly challenging and curiously enriching. Plan to live into your 80's. Quit living life as you did in your 40's. Give up golf (or at least put it in its proper perspective). Start painting. Keep painting. Die happy." □*

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"Pickup Lines" Original Watercolor on Paper

