

## **Douglas Hofmann**

About the Artist: My primary artistic heroes are the realists of the 17th Century, and the impressionists of the 19th and early 20th Century. Early on I was exposed to Jan Vermeer, and for me he has always been the pinnacle figure in painting. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Vermeer's work always read right for me. That is to say the settings, the props, and the figures depicted, all had an innate believability. Vermeer showed me that an artist could be extremely successful, by placing a normal person in a real room with good or at least interesting lighting, and attempt to paint merely what he saw. On its face, a Vermeer painting might seem simplistic, but in truth portraying the complexities of real images correctly is insanely difficult. Vermeer used numerous techniques and short cuts to achieve his artistic goals, and I use them too, along with many others, some of which are even unique to my work. But at the end of the process, when you view the finished painting, all that is left is an image, which hopefully appears as real, as it is beautiful. Less of an inspiration, Vermeer is more like a challenge. In the final result, the work must be as pure and as real as can be.

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The paintings of Douglas Hofmann have been critically acclaimed for their glowing surfaces, detail and softly lighted forms. Hofmann expertly combines his own methods of painting with the techniques of the old masters, which he learned from Joseph Sheppard at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he received his bachelor of fine arts degree. The beautiful aura of light and atmosphere found in great Baroque paintings pervades the works of Hofmann. He gives meticulous attention to detail, and creates harmonious compositions with superbly balanced colors and shapes.

Hofmann was born in Baltimore Maryland in 1945. He has received numerous awards for his works, including first prize at the Peale Museum in Baltimore, 1970; "Best Paintings in the Traditional Manner," at the Baltimore Museum, 1971, "Best in Show" at the Washington County Museum, Hagerstown, Md., 1972; "Best in Show," at the Center Club in Baltimore, 1973 and 1978. In 1988 he was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his painting "The Secret" by the Salmagundi Club at its Eleventh Annual Non-members Juried Exhibition.

Hofmann's works have been exhibited in numerous group and one-man shows at prestigious galleries and museums, in every major city in U.S.A. and Japan.

