

COVER ARTIST: MARTIN STENSAAS AND SUNNY STRASBURG



Martin Stensaas and Sunny Strasburg

Front cover:
Sentient Dawn
35" x 54"

Oil on acrylic on canvas
(Description: *Dragon in desert landscape*)

Backcover:
Around the Time the Second Cup is Offered
36" x 41"

Oil on acrylic on canvas

Painting together as a couple has been a rich creative experience for the husband/wife team of Martin Stensaas and Sunny Strasburg. Much like a musical duo, there is an improvisational knowing when to assert, and when to allow space for one another's brainstorming and maneuvers. Martin brings focus, patience and a high level of skill to the work. Sunny brings more conceptual, figural and archetypal content.

Influences include writers Noah Yuval Harari, Joseph Campbell and William James; Archetypal psychology, outings in nature, as well as psychedelic research and electronic music.

Sunny says, "I believe making art is casting a spell. My intention is to imbue the work with the soul and offer visual cues toward the ineffable. For me, art is an experience reflecting the four directions of alchemy: in the first phase, the idea is organized within the energetic/spirit realm (North/Sublimatio). The second phase is creating the work which is pulling the energy of thought and crafting it into matter- the art piece itself (East/Calcination). The third phase is offering the work to the viewer and sharing in the experience (West/Coagulation). The fourth and final phase is connecting both viewer and artist into the greater collective unconscious through the sublime experience art can provide (South/Solutio)."

Martin combines classical realism with the experience of mystical consciousness. His distinctive technique combines deep multilayered and colorful glazes, subtractive maneuvers, and fine line work to build up enchanted figures and otherworldly surroundings. His works are unique painterly experiences from across the room or a few inches away.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, Martin grew up interested in art and science, and the rugged landscapes of the West. He studied under David Amico and Earl Jones prior to receiving a four-year full-tuition scholarship to the University of Utah Art Department, where he received his BFA and met Sunny.

Sunny is a visual artist, Jungian psychotherapist, and an avid outdoor sports enthusiast. These three interests weave into all of her work. From Salt Lake City, she has a BFA from the University of Utah, and a Master of Arts degree from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Counseling Psychology. She is a Certified EMDR Trauma Psychotherapist, and is also completing her Certification of Psychedelic Therapy and Research at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Sunny self-produced a book on the hero/heroine's archetypal journey as visualized by the four directions in alchemy: Alchemist's Path: Navigating and Reclaiming the Depths of Your Psyche. She has produced a therapy workbook, Goddess Alchemy: A Dream Journal.

Sunny and Martin's collaborative art exhibitions include: Temple of Visions, Phaneros Art, Bash Contemporary, Sally Centigrade, MAPS fundraising event pop up shows, Urban Arts Gallery, Pacifica Graduate Institute, and Alex Grey's CoSM.

To learn more:

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For more information about her psychotherapy practice, please visit www.sunnystrasburgtherapy.com

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