



— Biography —

Ian Factor was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and began traditional training in figure drawing, painting and sculpture at the age of eight. He studied at the DeCordova Museum School in Lincoln Massachusetts, the Museum of Fine Arts School and Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. Factor earned his BFA from the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University in New York. After a residency at the Rocky Neck Art Colony in Gloucester, Massachusetts, Factor spent several years travelling and producing artwork throughout the United States. From 1994-1999 Factor taught at Montserrat College of Art while also working heavily in the commercial art field producing illustrations, murals and designs for corporate clients including Burton Snowboards, Timberland Outdoor Gear, Converse Footwear, Magic Hat Brewery, Vail Associates, Bank Boston(Fleet Bank) and IBM.

In 1999 Factor left for an extended painting residency in Italy and Spain where he "recommitted himself 100% to the fine art of realist painting." After 15 months living and painting abroad and 2 Solo Shows in Florence, Factor returned to the States and took up studio in Portland Maine. Over the next 6 years he had dozens of group and solo exhibitions throughout the Country, painted numerous prestigious commission portraits and continued his travels and painting abroad at least a few months every year. It was in the early part of 2000 that Factor was accepted into the Copley Society of Art in Boston and the National Arts Club in NYC where he continues to exhibit, give painting demos and lectures.

In late 2006 Factor moved from Portland Maine to Siena Italy to establish a Painting Program at the Siena School for Fine and Liberal Arts, where he taught Painting and Drawing. In Early 2008 he moved to a studio in Gramercy Park, NYC. During his time in NY Factor completed 3 commission Portraits for the permanent collection of the Players Club, NY (George Abbott, John Drew and Walter Hampden) and is currently on the Art committee of this prestigious and historical landmark. He also continued to work along side his dear friend and mentor Mr. Everett Raymond Kinstler, and assisted him with his 2 day painting workshops at the National Academy and the Art Student's League of NY. In the fall of 2009, Factor relocated from NYC to a large new artist's loft in Boston where he now has ample space and light to produce the over-sized figurative works he has planned for the future. In September of 2010 Factor rejoined the teaching faculty of Montserrat College Of Art in Beverly MA where he currently teaches Anatomy.

Factor continues to exhibit his works in galleries and museums here in the States and abroad. While focusing on his passion, the human form, he also spends many hours painting landscapes "en plein air" on location, as his desires to paint from life do not end with the figure and portraiture. Ian Factor is part of a long history of realist painters and is joined by many others in the attempt to not only keep these traditions alive, but to push into the future creating new and personal ways to express physical reality on a two dimensional surface while also looking deeper into the nature of the subject and the process.

Factor also believes that his more than 30 years of dedication to the study and teaching of traditional martial and healing arts directly influences not only every mark he puts down on canvas and paper, but every student he works with in the classroom as well. Ian Factor is co-founder and Master Level Instructor of Zhen Ren Chuan™, a traditional martial and healing arts system, and passes down this knowledge and wisdom to Instructors and Students around the world. The Headquarters are located in Arlington MA where Factor runs the Advanced Training Center (ZRCATC).

"Through my work I am not searching only to explain my own theories and opinions to others, alone. I am searching for the common ties and lines between all human beings that break down all barriers, walls and separations, and am searching for the means and techniques to bring these commonalities to the minds, hearts and emotions of every person who makes contact with these works. The supreme ultimate is to transcend all cultural and personal relativity, to link all human beings together."