

Russel Ball

Russ Ball holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. After moving to New Mexico in 1971, he attend-



ed graduate school at the University of New Mexico studying lithography under Garo Antreasian, painting with John Wenger & Harry Nadler & studying watercolor under the tutelage of Sam Smith.

In 1977 he spent four months touring Europe, visiting art museums, studying the culture & taking in the diverse scenery. The trip afforded him the opportunity to work with the staff of the Greek Academy of Art in Athens, Delphi & the Greek Islands. This European experience influences his work to this day in his use of lyrical symbolism & metaphor.

Upon returning to New Mexico, Ball took his paints into the foothills of the Sandias & began a continuing love affair with the “rock people” of Tijeras Canyon. The resulting watercolors are in collections across the country.

Contrasting with the watercolors are his large acrylics, which are flights of fantasy reflecting his love of the people, their lifestyles & the idiosyncrasies of the Southwest. Painted in the small studio behind his home, they are as rich in New Mexico symbolism & irony as they are in layered & textured paint.

Since 1978, he has worked as an illustrator & designer for the Albuquerque Journal. Russ’s colorful, enigmatic drawings can be seen throughout the Journal nearly every day of the week.

Russ ball is married to abstract painter Nancy Norman. They have two children.

