

Artist Biography Template

Those who love fantasy tales and dinosaurs would be great admirers of the works of Jillian Curtis. After all, she's the author of the famous book series about dinosaurs coexisting with humans in a fictional setting.

But Jillian is more than just a storyteller as she is also an artist who specializes in the creation of realistic images of "unphotographable" scenes using paint. Jillian is also famous for her Plein air works. She believes that directly making studies by observing her subjects can fuel her imagination.

Jillian came into the world in the year in California. She's the daughter of a civil engineer who taught herself how to draw and paint. Jillian felt inspired by reading several books about illustrators.

For her education, Jillian took Archaeology in the University of California where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology. She frequently travels cross-country in freight trains and documents these travels in a book she authored back in the year 1982. During this same period, she was already employed as a painter of backgrounds for animated TV shows.

Inevitably, Jillian launched her career as a freelance illustrator, and this started with covers of paperback books where she developed and displayed her penchant for realistic depictions of fantastic scenery. To achieve this, Jillian often used handmade maquettes and posed models for reference.

Since she launched her illustration career, she had worked with several assignments with National Geographic where she painted reconstructions of various civilizations that existed in the past.

While researching on these ancient civilizations, she got the inspiration that led to a series of old-world paintings which included "Dinosaurs on Parade" and "The City of Waterfalls." Impressed by her works, Jillian got encouraged by publishers to write more about these subjects. Thus, she spent two years of her life illustrating and writing "Dinoville: The Land of the Dinosaurs," an endearing book series published in 1993. Then the rest is history.

Even the Smithsonian Institute has exhibited the artworks of Jillian. She has even received an invitation to be a lecturer in game companies, movie studios, art schools, and more.

Jillian often conducts occasional workshops as well. Her latest book, "Light and Color: A Beginner's Guide for Realist Painters" which got published in 2010, became the #1 bestseller book on painting at Amazon. It held that position for more than 50 weeks before getting replaced by another title.

Jillian is a versatile artist whose works include illustrations, books, articles, and postage stamp art, and more. She has given lectures in movie studios, museums,

universities, meetings, game companies, and other venues. In terms of awards, Jillian has a lot to boast about.

These include 2 Gold and 3 Silver Awards from the Spectrum Annual of Contemporary Fantasy Art; Best Artist at the Hudson Valley Awards in 2006; a Finalist in the Art Renewal Center in 2005, a Gold Medal for Creativity for her Dinosaur Stamp Design; a Merit Award from the Art Directors Club in 1988, a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators in New York; a World Fantasy Award from the Fantasy Association of the World; a Children's Book Award in Colorado; 3 Hugo Awards from the Science Fiction Convention, and 9 Chesley Awards from the Science Fiction Artists' Association.