

Dance of the Jellyfish (2015)

By Walt Wright

The dazzling color of this painting combined with the implied motion makes this a fun painting to view. The rules of the artist color wheel were followed in this work as are most of my paintings. This work was a challenge, as I had never painted an underwater scene before. I wanted an aquarium type view but with creatures that could not cohabitate together in close quarters. Imagine the fish dashing about as the jellyfish slowly coils its tentacles like a sweeping net. I desired an event that only in the wild deep blue sea would it occur, primarily because this is no ordinary jellyfish.

This creature is the Portuguese Man-O-War jellyfish. One sting can paralyze a grown man instantly. When fishing for food its long tentacles work in a spiral manner to confuse the school of fish dashing about. Those that get too close are stung then pulled in by the tentacles. Slowly they are digested over a long period of time, once consumed the jellyfish releases the bones. Therefore one should avoid getting caught up in the hypnotic rhythm of motion and color, or it will surely become a dance with death.

