

ORION'S STALLION (2014)

By Walt Wright

This small painting (12 x 12) is best viewed in lower light at a distance between eighteen and twenty four inches. As in most of my paintings the sense of distance (or depth) is prevalent, though not as dominant in this work as in some of my others. This is due to the level of lighting depicted within the scene. The painting is based on Greek mythology and the event is illuminated by nearby flames from a battle.

This mythical event has several versions but basically the story goes that Artemis was overwhelmed by rage when Orion (The Hunter) made strong unwanted advances toward her. They were both demigods. Orion was the son of Poseidon and Artemis, the daughter of Zeus. A battle broke out between them and Artemis finally killed Orion with a fatal shot from one of her arrows. The flame coming from the great stallion's heel is a burning reminder to all men that Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned (offended)!

The star constellation of Orion is on the horizon as a ghostly image of a dying Orion appears in the smoke at the lower left corner of the painting. Orion was a giant as was his stallion. This noble steed was considered so magnificent that when it died (many years later) it was given a star constellation of its own, as well as a nebula. Look for his stars in the night sky; he is "The Horse".

