

## THE ENCHANTED POOL (1989)

By Walt Wright

This work was completed during my years as teacher's assistant for Helen Thorne. She believed that true art tells a simple story or creates a strong emotional response. It should challenge the skills of the artist.

This painting is best viewed at a distance of four to six feet, although it clearly captures attention from across a room. The soothing shade over the water contrasting with the hazy trees in the distance creates a sense of a remote oasis. All is quiet; nothing stirs with the exception of a leaf floating on the water. It all looks so peaceful and enchanted until you take a closer look. The large tree has been split all the way up and lying on a rock in the foreground is a skull. Both are obviously from a tragedy that occurred long ago. You should keep in mind that enchanted means magical, but rarely in a good way. It usually means cursed. The darkness and murkiness of the water gives the impression that it is much deeper than it appears. What secrets does it hold? That is difficult to say but perhaps your first question should have been "What is the danger of getting too close?"

