

## Charles Young Walls OPA

Some people believe that art is mere decoration, that craft and art are the same thing. It is not. The artist is a different animal. Born of the Muse, called to create, even against self interest, the artist makes art.

A life-long artist, Charles Young Walls has devoted himself to the pursuit of artistic understanding and excellence. Child and man, he drew. When not wandering in the woods, climbing, riding, swimming, fighting, he drew. As he grew older, struggling with those who defined art as expression alone or who refused to define art at all, he drew. He instinctively knew that drawing is the beginning and the end of all artistic endeavor.

Through that struggle he completed a BFA from Arizona State University. After which, years later, he finally found the teaching he was looking for and was trained in the essential skills of oil painting, first at the National Academy of Design and then at The Art Students League of New York.

Continuing to hone his painting skills, Charles spent a decade working and gaining valuable experience as an illustrator. When that path began to hinder rather than develop his art he began painting for himself. Finding the student within again, and with the help of his teachers, he drove himself to greater insights and has since fallen in love with learning. And now as a teacher himself he believes if we keep an open mind learning can be lifelong and new insights need never end.

His excitement about life and art resides fully in the now and looking to the future. He sees each new painting as a challenge to explore and discover, not settling to paint the last painting again and again. With this approach to art-making he realizes that the development of aesthetic taste and artistic knowledge is never ending, and he revels in that ongoing quest.

Enjoying a growing reputation as an award winning painter, Charles has exhibited in numerous exhibitions nationwide. He received the Presidents' Award of Excellence at the 2015 Oil Painters of America National Exhibition and at the 2013 OPA National Exhibition he was awarded the John August Dietrich Memorial Figurative Award of Excellence. His work has been honored with the Gold Medal at both the 2015 OPA Salon Exhibition and most recently at the 2020 OPA Eastern Regional Exhibition.

Charles is a Signature Member of both Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society. He also holds membership with the Portrait Society of America, the National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society, and the California Art Club. Charles and his wife currently live in the Atlanta area.

Charles is represented by Reinert Fine Art in Charleston SC.