

Now We're Talking

By Helen Marketti

An Interview with artist, Terry Wolfinger

Terry Wolfinger has been drawing, sketching, painting, and creating unique pieces of artwork since he was a young boy. Now his art has caught the attention of prominent figures in the entertainment industry. His talent and experience cover a variety of genres that enable him to explore different avenues for engaging audiences.

"I have been drawing ever since I can remember," said Terry. "My parents saved a drawing that I made when I was two years old. I drew a little man that was made from a bunch of circles. He had arms, legs and a face. My mom was very creative. She was always working on craft projects and made beautiful stained-glass windows. My dad enjoyed drawing different models of cars. I was always fascinated by their artwork."

Terry shared his interests in what caught his attention at an early age. "I was a big fan of the Godzilla movies. I started drawing monsters when I was eight years old," remembers Terry. "I was also a fan of Mad Magazine. I gravitated towards the artwork of Mort Drucker and Angelo Torres because they made it look so easy. They both had different styles and were very dynamic. I tried to emulate that in my own work. As a kid, I loved drawing cars, monsters and superheroes."

Working with those who have an impact on our lives and encourage self-motivation has always been something that Terry appreciated. "I have worked with great teachers who inspired me and artists who took me under their wing," he said. "Although I never actually worked for Disney, I was involved in a few Disney-related projects through Lumeni Productions, such as doing special animation on movie trailers for Beauty & The Beast, Aladdin, and Pinocchio."

Stan Winston, who was a special effects makeup artist for film and television, gave Terry a great opportunity, "He hired me right on the spot after I showed him a portfolio of my work. I felt extremely fortunate. Through this experience, I was able to work on some exciting projects such as Jurassic Park II."

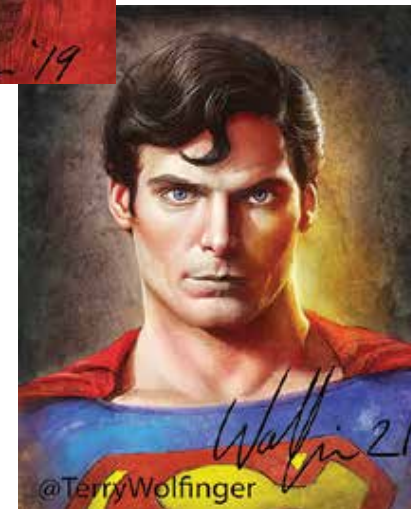
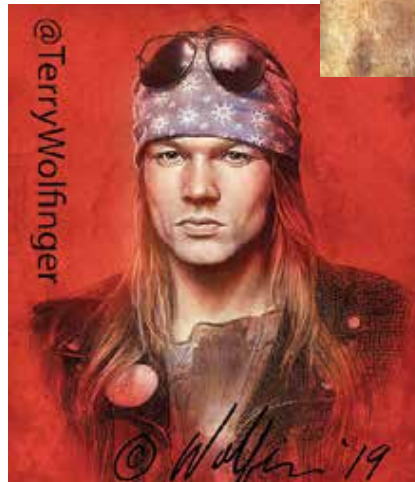
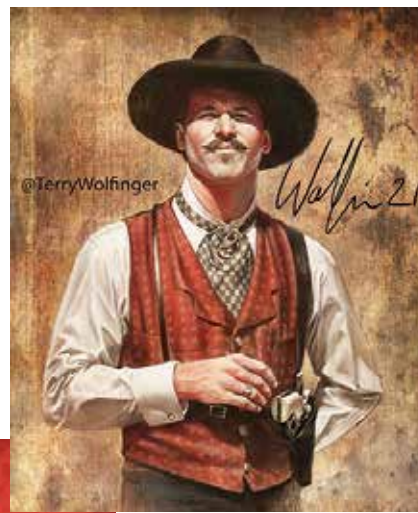
Eventually, Terry started creating incredible artwork through celebrity photographs. "I joined a Facebook group that focused on artist caricature work. Every two weeks they would post a picture of a celebrity such as Al Pacino or Jim Carrey and the artists would create their own interpretative sketch of the photo and members would vote. Eventually, people would start messaging me and ask if they

could buy a print of my work. So, I put up a website and it started gaining momentum."

Terry has been fortunate that one opportunity has segued into another. "I did a portrait of Joaquin Phoenix as The Joker (2019). The trailer had just been released and I had watched it several times and decided to make a drawing of him. I drew the picture for fun and posted it online. At that point, it was my most popular piece. A few months later, a representative from a company contacted me as they were looking for portrait artists with my style and asked if I would be interested in creating a portrait of Robert Downey Jr. as Dolittle (2020). Robert approved it right away and then more things started unfolding."

"HelMel Studios (Los Angeles) is owned by actor Val Kilmer. Tom Stratton, who is a partner and Curator of the gallery as well as Director of Strategy and Media reached out to me," said Terry. "Tom said that Val really liked my work and suggested I put an exhibit together for the gallery. I remembered I had a sketch of Val as Doc Holliday from the movie, Tombstone (1993) and sent it to Tom to show Val. Val liked the portrait very much and I created a limited number of prints for both he and I to sign. I think Val Kilmer's role as Doc Holliday is solid. He plays the role amazingly well. He steals every scene. It's one of my favorite movies. Whenever Tombstone is on HBO, I will stop what I am doing until I have watched all of Val's scenes."

There are many exciting projects in the works for Terry, including his upcoming exhibit at HelMel Studios where his wonderful works of art will be on display. He continues to create artwork for movies, magazines, and books. "There is something about putting pen to paper and, after making a series of lines and scratches, an image starts to appear. It's the transformative and transportive nature of art that really does it for me. Inspiration is all around. It may come from a piece of music or a song and a whole story unfolds in my head. Or



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