Glenn Dean was born in 1976 in Torrance, California. His innate passion for learning may have been what led him to become an amateur champion bodyboarder at the age of 19, but his short bodyboarding career in California ended when he realized the unlimited number of concepts to be learned and practiced in art. By his early 20s, his childhood interest in art had matured into a love of painting landscapes.

Exposure to the California and Western landscape painters of the early 1900s had a great influence on the young artist and directed the course of his career early on. In the works of Edgar Payne, Armin Hansen, William Wendt, Hanson Puthuff, William Ritschel, Maynard Dixon, and others, Dean saw the “importance of seeing the color of light” while “carefully observing the simple and basic characteristics of a specific location.”

Largely self-taught, Dean is now a respected and much sought-after landscape painter of the West. He has a passion and joy for discovering answers to the complexities found in the works of past Masters and continues to strive for a similar quality in his own work. “The early painters incorporated good use of the principles of aesthetic art,” says Dean, and he believes their paintings revealed the spiritual element of the landscape, which he feels should be the landscape painter’s goal.

In recent years, Dean has turned his attention to the figure within the landscape as he brings his figures closer to the forefront. He is intrigued by the relationship between the figure and his surroundings.

The artist gained recognition early in his career and has since won a number of awards, including the first ever “Emerging Artist Award” presented by *Art and Antiques* magazine at the *Carmel Art Festival*. At the Eiteljorg Museum’s *Quest for the West Art Show and Sale*, he has won the 2018 Henry Farny Award for Best Painting, the 2017 Artist’s Choice Award, and the 2016 Victor Higgins Award of Distinction for the Best Overall Body of Work.

Other select awards include the Gold Thunderbird Award (Best of Show) at the 2013 *Maynard Dixon Country*, Carmel, Utah; the Kelman-Ortiz Award at the 2007 *Torrey Pines Plein Air Painting Invitational*, La Jolla, California; both the Grand Prize and Artists’ Choice Award at the inaugural (2003) *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Plein Air Invitational*, Tucson, Arizona; and Best Miniature Painting Award at the 8th Annual (2002) *Mission San Juan Capistrano Invitational Plein Air Painting Festival*, Capistrano, California.

He has also shown his work at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s *Prix de West Invitational*, Oklahoma City; the Briscoe Western Art Museum’s *Night of Artists*, San Antonio, Texas; the Phoenix Art Museum’s *West Select*; the *California Art Club Gold Medal Juried Exhibition*, Pasadena, California; the *Coors Western Art Exhib*it*& Sale*; and in numerous one-man and group shows. In 2013, his painting *Distant Giant* was acquired for the permanent collection of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Dean has twice been honored as the cover artist for *Western Art Collector* magazine and has also been featured in *American Art Collector*, *American Artist*, *Art of the West*, *Art-Talk*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *Plein Air*, the *Santa Fean*, *Southwest Art*, *Western Art Collector*, and *Western Art & Architecture*.

“I paint because for me, it’s the most effective way to celebrate or honor the things in the world that I find to be beautiful,” he says. Desert, mountains, mesas, coasts—he’s hard-pressed to choose a favorite landscape in the West. “They are clearly all so different and beautiful. I am from the coast and my life now is on the coast. There’s something about being on the edge of a continent with the vast surface of a hidden world to look out on. It keeps the imagination alive. Witnessing nature’s moods on the water is pretty amazing, too. And it’s always a treat to travel and paint in the Southwest, to Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, or anywhere in the Four Corners region. . . . All of nature is a gift. I can feel the same awe from looking at a dead tree that I can feel from staring into the depths of the Grand Canyon.”

Time in the field and time in the studio are equally important to him. While working in his studio, he is able to paint larger compositions worked from field studies and other references. “My goal as an artist is to honor my subjects with just enough truth and feeling to give a sense of time and place, but also to give a sense of the unseen qualities of nature that might invoke ideas of our connectivity to the land, to each other, and perhaps even to God; alluding to our own comparative insignificance with nature’s endless, grand designs.”

Dean and his wife, Suzanne, live on the Central Coast of California.

Glenn Dean is represented by Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona, and Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mark Sublette Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, Arizona; and Maxwell Alexander Gallery, Los Angeles, California.

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