Born in southern China, **Mian Situ** trained in his native homeland of Canton (now Guangdong), China, earning BA and MFA degrees from the Guangzhou Institute of Fine Art. During his schooling, he experimented with various artist styles, including impressionism, post-impressionism, and expressionism. He was also deeply influenced by the 19-centry European Academic Realism that traveled to Russia and was eventually imported to China. His academic training was the result of Western influences that were prevalent during the Cultural Revolution and available only to talented young Chinese students. Situ was one of the best, and when he emigrated to the West, he brought the skills had learned with him. After teaching at the institute for six years, he moved to Canada, living there for ten years before immigrating to the United States in 1998.

Situs’s paintings clearly reflect his upbringing in the rural countryside of his native China. His deep-toned, impressionistic paintings of the backcountry often focus on people going about their daily lives in their small villages and farming communities. Mian strives to capture the dignity and beauty in the everyday lives of the people and as a painter, feels a strong need to document their traditional ways of life and dress before they are lost. “My paintings always tell stories. I have spent many years traveling throughout China taking photographs and studying the people . . . trying to capture the rhythm of their lives.”

Situ’s artistic versatility, as evident in his exquisite portraiture as well as his more recent works inspired by Western historical themes and American landscapes, has gained him an impressive and loyal following His work has the remarkable quality of appealing to all types of art patrons—young and old, those purchasing their first piece of art, and those with established, museum-quality collections. His collectors, admirers, and potential collectors anxiously await his next new work.

His debut in the United States art world began with the 1995 *Oil Painters of American National Juried Exhibition*, in which the judges recognized his exceptional talent and awarded him the $10,000 Best of Show prize, and also won the People’s Choice Award. Since then, he has been recognized with many national art awards. In 2021, Situ won the David Crockett Award for Artists' Choice at the Briscoe Western Art Museum’s *Night of Artists* for *The Meeting Place*, and 2018 he won the *Prix de West* Purchase Award at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s *Prix de West Invitational*.

His many Masters of the American West awards at the Autry Museum of the American Western include the Patrons’ Choice Award and the Artists’ Choice Award for Trail of Life at Canyon de Chelly in 2017; the James R. Parks Trustees’ Purchase Award in 2015 for his painting The Gold Nugget, Chinese Camp, 1850; the *Masters of the American West* Purchase Award for Convergence of Cultures in 2009; the Gene Autry Memorial Award in 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, and 2008; the Patrons’ Choice Award and the Artists’ Choice Award in 2006; the Artists’ Choice Award in 2005; and the Thomas Moran Memorial Award for Painting and the Patrons’ Choice Award in 2004. In 2003, he received three *Masters* awards: the Thomas Moran Memorial Award for Painting, the Artists’ Choice Award, and the Patrons’ Choice Award. At the 2002 Masters, his painting Powder Monkeys won the Masters of the American West Purchase Award; he also received the Thomas Moran Memorial Award for Painting and the Patrons’ Choice Award that year.

In 2000, Situ won the first-place prize at the *Carmel Art Festival* and the Artists’ Choice Award for Best Painting at the *90th Gold Medal Exhibition* of the California Art Club. He has also received numerous awards from the Oil Painters of America’s *National Juried Exhibition.*

Regardless of the subject matter, setting, or ethnicity of any particular painting by Situ, it’s that very real sense of life, and the human connection that comes with it, that ultimately makes his work so compelling. “Art is different from photography in that it shows emotionally how you look at a subject,” he says, summing up what he wants his paintings to achieve. “I want to show you not only what a subject is, but how it is.”

Mian Situ is represented by American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, California; Sanders Galleries, Tucson, Arizona; Trailside Galleries–online; and Wilcox Gallery, Jackson, Wyoming. Giclée reproductions of his work are available through Greenwich Workshop dealers.

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