

About the Artist

“My goal is to portray images of the common man or rather the human condition in all its beauty, cruelties, and paradoxes. I want to reveal with these images a visual language that speaks of the deep issues of conscience. A moment for the audience to reflect on how each image may involve a part of their lives.”

---Melanie Powell

Melanie's journey into art started at the tender age of five thanks to her dad who painted and shared his love of art with his young daughter. When she was nine, Melanie began painting at New Jersey's Albert & Schlenz studio, where she studied with oils for the next nine years. She continued her studies of Fine Art at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

Early in her career, Melanie's focus was on realism. As she grew as an artist, experimenting in all the usual mediums, she discovered a keen affinity for the airbrush. Melanie says, "I was pleased with the effect and its accessibility. For a long time this was enough."

Always curious and innovative, Melanie embraced the emerging computer art technology in 1990 and never looked back. Today, she has a unique understanding of digital technology with a traditional art aesthetic. Her illustrations are drawn on the board and scanned into her computer, where she paints with Photoshop.

Melanie's experience as an art director for Rodale's *American Woodworker* from 1994-1999 gave her a unique vantage point from the editorial side. Her work is thoughtful, masterful, unique, and passionate. Happy editorial art clients include F&W Publications, Taunton Press, Sunset Books, and Storey Books, among others.

Aside from painting medium and easels, Melanie's studio, which she designed and built in 2000, houses the latest Intel Macintosh technology. At present, along with her illustrative work, she paints with software while using photography as a basis for capturing people, their occupation of time, and their needs.

Bucks County, PA is renowned for its resident artists, and the New Hope area was especially famous for its artist community where many Impressionists emerged. Among Melanie's favorites are Daniel Garber, George Sotter, William Lathrop, and Edward Redfield. Melanie says, "I often ride the area dirt roads and villages along the Delaware river to soak up history's ambiance while shooting photographs for future painting reference. Much of my inspiration lies here in this area some twenty minutes from my home."