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Michael Sowa



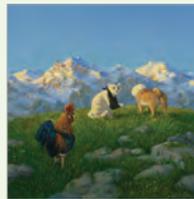
2016 Calendar

Michael Sowa 2016 Calendar

ISBN 978193143-289-9

Item # 15601

US \$14.95
 CAN \$17.99



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Who is Michael Sowa? We know that he was born in Berlin in 1945 and that he has lived there ever since. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin for seven years, spent a brief time as an art teacher and then became, in his words, "a free painter in private practice." He has since illustrated numerous award-winning children's books, including *Esterhazy* and *Little King*. He has also contributed to several magazines, most notably the November 2002 cover of *The New Yorker* and numerous covers of the satirical German magazine *Titanic*. He has also produced advertisements for the German Green Party and the software firm *Bohland*. His work is rarely exhibited, although a recent five-day show in Japan drew more than 30,000 attendees. If you'd like to buy an original Sowa painting, you will have to persuade the current owner to part with it. Otherwise, there are none to be had.

There is no question that Sowa's work succeeds as serious art despite its subject matter. His most detailed paintings are set pieces of light, color and intricate brushwork, paying homage to the Flemish and Dutch masters of the 16th and 17th century. He works in acrylic gilded by layers of glowing varnish resulting in a finished product almost indistinguishable from an oil painting. Using this technique, he achieves a richness and depth comparable to the works of Vermeer and Titian. He also paints in gouache (opaque water-colors) producing works of superb quality.

While his technique can be compared to master painters of ages past his subject matter is Surrealist in the tradition of Magritte and comic illustration on the order of Gary Larson. In fact, Sowa's work bridges the gap between illustration and fine art and moves back and forth between these widely disparate worlds with infinite ease.

Sowa possesses the rare ability to combine unrelated elements into artwork that is constantly attractive, often thoughtful and frequently funny. His fans are always wondering what the "Master of Silent Humor" will produce next. Most likely, in the spirit of *Morty Pfitzer*, it will be "something completely different."



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