

ERIK NIEMANN - Artist

ARTIST STATEMENT & BIO

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Erik uses flat metal tools to create dynamic yet elegant contemporary abstract paintings. His paintings are quite textural and full of vivid colors. When Erik paints, colors and patterns emerge and remind some of abstract architectural landscapes.

Erik is a self-taught artist and began painting professionally in January 2002 while touring New Zealand for six weeks in a campervan with his wife Jennifer. Five months later he started selling his paintings and showing at an art gallery near San Francisco, California. Soon he knew this was his life's purpose, to create beautiful paintings for people.

*"My architectural background is always there,
guiding me through the creation of each painting."*

Erik has participated in over a dozen solo art shows and over sixty group art shows. Nearly two-thirds of his paintings have been collected throughout ten US states as well as Australia and Mexico. Three of Erik's paintings are on display inside the United States Embassy in Dili, East Timor through the *Art in Embassies* program of the US State Department. Erik's painting *Distant Malabar* (2007) is featured in an article about his painting process in *American Artist* magazine, December 2008 issue, page 17.

Excited about international philanthropy, Erik currently donates 50% of all painting sale revenue to the East Meets West Foundation's *Operation Healthy Heart* program which provides corrective surgery for Vietnamese children with congenital heart defects.

Erik also mentors a nine year old boy from Oakland through the *OreMi Mentoring Program*. Erik is an advisor to the *Cal Chapter of Triangle Fraternity*. He participates in the *Mankind Project* men's organization, and is on the board for *Peacekey*, a non-profit that supports a charter high school in Richmond, California. *Erik also co-coordinates the San Francisco Chapter of the University of Kansas Alumni Association.*

Erik continues to actively participate in courses with Landmark Education for the past ten years, which he credits the *Landmark Forum* for meeting his wife Jennifer, creating his art career, and being able to participate powerfully in teams of people and leadership possessions. In 2003, Erik and Jennifer self-published a book about their thirty-five country "grand adventure" journey, *Chasing Summer: Exploring the World on an 18-month Honeymoon.*

In early October 2009 Erik will participate in the *7th Annual Monastir International Art Festival* in Monastir, Tunisia. Erik is one of a few American artists participating with seventy other international artists, creating two paintings each that contribute to a new contemporary art museum in Monastir, Tunisia.

Erik was born in 1971 in Modesto, California, United States. He studied architecture in California, the University of Kansas, the Danish Institute for Study Abroad in Copenhagen, and graduate studies at the Architectural Association in London, England. Please visit *ErikNiemann.com* for images, prices and events.