

Réalisme Imaginaire



Opening Reception for Renowned Artist Daniel Merriam in Belcastel

AVEYRON, FRANCE -

The incomparable artwork of Daniel Merriam makes its debut in Aveyron for the region's 2009 tourist season. Animazing Monde d'Illustration, located within the Chateau de Belcastel, proudly welcomes this critically acclaimed collection of *Imaginary Realism*. The exhibition of original and limited edition works is open to the public from the 1st of April through the 12th of November. A reception for the artist will take place on the 6th of August from 6-9pm. Throughout the month of August, Daniel Merriam will be an *Artist in Residence* at the Chateau, painting new works in view of visitors. The Chateau and Gallery are located 25km from Rodez. RSVP is requested for the cocktail reception, via calling or emailing the Chateau's gallery. Contact, admission and event details can be found on the historical landmark's [website](#).

Widely renowned as one of the world's best watercolorists, Daniel

Merriam has captured the hearts and curiosities of collectors' world wide. This new collection of works was inspired by the Artist's 2008 journey to the fortress. The body of work reflects the magic of the Chateau, and reminds viewers that the imagination is a muscle.

Daniel Merriam's paintings are dreams in full color. His art invites the viewer to journey into the imagination, where the worlds of reality and fantasy collide in an explosion of color, shapes and symbolism. Daniel Merriam is a contemporary master whose published works & books have taken root within noteworthy private & museum collections. In 2007 his paintings were included in the European exhibition *Venus & the Female Intuition*, which toured Denmark, the Netherlands & France. In 2008 his works were hung next to those of Salvador Dali in an American exhibition.



Above:
Chateau Belcastel,
Aveyron

Top:
Big Ideas. Copyright
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Acrylic.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1963 in a rural town in Maine, Merriam is one of seven creative and artistic children. He taught himself to paint at a very young age, and used his art as a method of reflective play throughout his childhood, Merriam studied mechanical and architectural design at Central Maine Vocational technical Institute.

He first turned his talents professionally to the commercial art field working as an architectural and commercial illustrator for a number of multi-national corporations. Merriam's illustrations received numerous awards including several Broderson awards, a New England Scholastics Press Association award, and the University of New England Honorary Masters of Humane Letters in recognition for the potential social contribution of his work.

Merriam's true passion always remained with painting the expression of his own inner vision. In 1986, Merriam shifted his focus solely to fine art and later that year had his first solo exhibition in Maine. Since then, his exhibitions throughout the United States have been applauded and achieved critical acclaim.

In 1998, Monarch Editions, Inc. published *The Art of Daniel Merriam: The Impetus of Dreams* - selections from a decade of the artist's work. The book's second edition was published in 2002. Merriam's most recent catalogue raisonné *The Eye of a Dreamer* was released in October 2007. Both catalogues raisonné were inducted into the permanent archives of the *Los Angeles County Museum of Art* and included in the permanent libraries of the *National Museum of American Illustration* and *Peninsular Museum of Art*.

Merriam's work is included in the public collections of *The Riverside Museum of Art*; Merrill Lynch in California; *The Gesundheit! Institute* in Virginia; *The Manhattan Club* in New York, among others.

ABOUT ANIMAZING GALLERY

Animazing Gallery, New York's Premier Animation Art and Illustration Gallery, is owned and operated by Heidi Leigh and Nick Leone. Its showrooms are located in New York in SoHo and in the Chateau de Belcastel in France. Animazing Gallery features the finest collection of animation art and fine art that is fun, including The PEANUTS Paintings by Tom Everhart, and The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss collection. More at www.animazing.com

Animazing Monde d'Illustration is located within the Chateau de Belcastel, which was built 1000 years ago on a gigantic rock and rises above one of the most beautiful villages in the Aveyron region of France.

Although the Chateau de Belcastel is a private residence, its owners welcome the public to tour the fortress, which is both a historical landmark and a sprawling art gallery. More at www.chateaubelcastel.com



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