

Christine Nicole Productions, Inc.

N E W S

Modern Masters®

Metallics That Won't Tarnish

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If you have ever had the nightmare of that beautiful golden finish turning green then you know what I'm talking about. Many gold products such as bronzing powder mixes and gold leaf will tarnish when exposed to any moisture. This has been a particular problem in bathrooms. Mica powder mixes have been a more durable option but have very low luster. Sealants applied on top will help protect but often change the desired color of the finish.

Artists at Christine Nicole Productions have been using the Modern Masters® Metallics products as an option in high moisture areas. The latest in metallic paints will not tarnish like bronzing powder mixes.

Modern Masters® offers a wide range of durable metallic colors that are brighter than mica powder mixes but more durable than bronzing powder mixes. There is no paint that will shine like metal leaf but these new paints offer a

beautiful alternative to leaf in areas where leaf should not go such as bath rooms with showers.

Don't shy away from metallics anymore in your designs. Choose them for ceilings, walls, moldings, furniture and accessories. They look particularly stunning on fireplace mantle with gold, copper or silver leaf accents.

~Christine Barnette

Special points of interest:

- Who is Christine Nicole Productions?
- Latest Projects
- Spotlight on Painter: Mike Rhodes
- Modern Masters® Metallics
- Decorative Finishes: Definitions

Who IS Christine Nicole Productions?

Christine Nicole Productions, Inc. is a full service decorative painting company. The company is designed to maximize the creative vision of the designers, architects and clients through the hands of artists. These artists come together as a network bringing a wide range of expertise and experience to each and every project. There is no 'mass production' here. Each project receives individual attention from the time of consultation, to sample production, and

finally, project completion. All of which leads to the creation of a fresh, personalized space for the client to enjoy.

Christine Nicole Productions was created out of necessity. Christine Barnette knew how to run a business and knew decorative painting. The demand followed, and she was able to shape the company according to what she felt was missing in the industry. Different people are good at different things. If people organize and

share their talents respectfully than everyone can be more successful. Most independent artists can't market themselves enough to bring in a regular income. Large companies tend to take advantage of the artists to make their money. What this company is doing is more networking. This company markets better than a lot of artists do. Artists have the talent and knowledge but they sometimes can't get enough work on their own. Artists need a company like Christine Nicole Productions to give

them full time, gratifying work, and Christine needs them to help service all of her clients. There's also a sharing of knowledge that happens in a group of artists. At Christine Nicole Productions, we continue to teach each other new techniques and skills.

Foremost, it's important to treat everyone with respect and equally. Happy people do good work. *It's that simple.*

Decorative Finishes: Definitions

Basecoat - The first layer of paint applied after sealing.

Blending - A soft, gradual transition from one color or tone to another.

Crackle - A method of antiquing used to create an aged, cracked appearance.

Dry Time - The amount of time it takes for paint to dry to the touch.

Eggshell Finish - Process of applying basecoat with a small sponge roller to achieve a subtle textured finish.

Faux Finish - Decorative painting that imitates the look of marble, wood, etc. "Faux" means false.

Glaze - Applying a transparent layer of paint over all or part of a painting to modify the overall color.

Priming - The preliminary coating, color or preparation that is laid onto the surface

painting. Provides the surface with the right absorbency and color before painting.

Ragging - A technique used to create a textured effect by bouncing a rag up and down on a freshly applied glaze.

Sealer - Protective coating applied to surface before and after painting which prevents chemical reactions between the paints and the surfaces they are applied on.

Stencil - An image cut out of cardboard or other material. Paint is then applied through the cutout.

Tinting - Applying just a trace of color to a surface.

Underpainting or Undercoating - Preliminary painting, over which other colors are applied.

Wanna know more?

Email us:

info@christinenicoleproductions.com

Spotlight on Artist: Mike Rhodes

interview by Nancy Scheer

This Baltimore, Maryland native conveys his craft through many media such as copper wood, painted glass, found objects and sometimes precious stones. His work is inspired by his interest in ancient cultures, the Afro-American experience and from his travels to the Americas and Africa. He has a client list of people from the Americas, Canada, Europe, Africa and the Cape Verde Islands. Mike Rhodes is a graduate from the Baltimore School for the Arts, the University of Arts in Philadelphia and the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (Masters in Fine Art).

As a visual artist you have a great talent for diversity and being masterful within each color of that spectrum. Could you talk about how your background, education and living environment influenced this eclecticism and your art in general?

I went to the Baltimore School for the Arts, At this High School, we were

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LATEST PROJECTS

We have announced "bragging rights" concerning two of our latest projects...

First, the completion of the Tuscan style villa in the North Potomac residence of designer **Cyndi LaPietra**, has truly been this year's masterpiece. Distressed crackle walls in the foyer, copper crackle banister, the striking black and copper walls of the powder room, with the antiqued copper leaf ceilings in this small but welcoming room. The family room is subtle with a warm burnt umber oil glaze applied to the walls. Drama follows into the dining room where faux

'water damaged' walls are created with umber and golden oil glazes. Corners and edges are embellished with touches of copper and green tinged stone plaster. Copper leaf reflects behind the client's crystal collection inside corner build in cabinets. The kitchen encompasses faux painted stone walls, the eating area opens up with garden theme mural work. Grape vines climb the walls to the vaulted ceiling where faux wood beams cross over under a faux Tuscan sky. A touch of whimsy is included with the addition of small creatures; dragonfly, grasshopper, and lady bug. All of these selections were made by the

LaPietra children. We greatly enjoyed working with Cyndi and her family on this project. Coordinating fabrics, furniture style, flooring, cabinets, etc. and most importantly, the flow from room-to-room to create an entire atmosphere, has truly been a challenge and a pleasure.

Secondly, some of you may have taken note of the French villa theme created in the home of designer, **Beth Gularson**, also of North Potomac. Sadly, Beth and her family will be selling their home which has been featured in the *Gaithersburg Gazette* for its style and beauty. We have no doubts that we will be there to help Beth personalize the new home!

encouraged to be open to all types of art, music and culture. Therefore, at an early age I created art that included many different sources and influences.

Because you are a working artist I know that your time can sometimes be overwhelmed with work demands. Can you talk about how this sometimes distracts from your own need to make art solely for yourself and quench your own creative desires?

It's very hard trying to be true to your art and living in a money-oriented society. In order to make your work, you have to invent your own lifestyle that will allow you to survive while making art.

When creating, whether for yourself or a client, is there a method that you use for inspiration to help kick-start the process?

There is no kick-start for creative process. Creating for me is like exercise. The beginning is hard but after following a routine, you can't stop the process.

Mike, much of your social and personal life is accentuated by the presence of other artists. How does this affect your own development and inspiration as an artist? Can you give an example?

Being in the company of other artists helps me in the development process when sharing ideas. It also shows how others survive as artists.

What artist (dead or alive) would you most like to sit down and have a beer with?

The artist I would like to have a beer with would be Vincent Van Gogh. He seems in many ways like many of the troubled artistic friends I have. I would really like to get a better idea of why he painted as he did.

Which your passion for woodworking, why do you do decorative painting as well?

I do decorative painting to earn a living and it also allows me to create new environments in a person's home or business.

What made you decide to work on projects with Christine Nicole Productions? What has been your experience since this partnership?

Christine Nicole Productions, Inc. has allowed me more freedom to create more of my own art furniture, as well as the freedom to do a variety of different decorative projects, not just the standard finishes.

What are your goals for your work for the future?

My future goals are to develop a line of art furniture that would change views of what furniture is supposed to look like.

Contact Mike at his studio at 410-889-0921 at 2524 St. Paul St. in downtown Baltimore.

A piece from Mike Rhodes collection of works

LETTER FROM THE OWNER

This has been an exciting year for business for Christine Nicole Productions. We have established successful relationships with numerous interior designers, builders, and clients. Our staff has grown to include ten artists all with various levels of experience and talents.

Designers often ask me who I know and can refer for various specialized projects. In response I included the "Spotlight Artist" feature in the newsletter. This letter is spotlighting Mike Rhodes who creates beautiful, custom made furniture.

Many of the artists who work with me have specialized talents as well. These talents may include sculpture, portrait painting, stained glass, etc. I hope to spotlight a different artist and their specialty in each newsletter. This information is to be shared equally and please feel free to contact each artist pertaining to their specialty.

Many of you ask for the web site address. Our site will go live on September 17th. Go to www.ChristineNicoleProductions.com. This will allow all of you the opportunity to view some of the photographs of our projects and learn more about the company.

I'd like to send out a special thanks to Lynni Megginson and all the girls and guys at L&M Designs for all their support.

Also to Nancy Scheer, who is responsible for creating this newsletter, and the web site, and getting it out to all of you. Nancy, thank you for keeping me organized! Thank you to the artists who create the masterpieces we desire. Thank you to the designers for the vision and sharing the opportunities. And of course, thank you to the clients for having great taste, style and trust.

-Christine N. Barnette

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September 17th!**

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