



*77 Years
in
7 Minutes*

Lived by

Written by

Illustrated by

R Tom Gillean

I was born in Gainesville Florida. Because my older sister had polio I went to live with my grandparents in the country.

My grandfather was a very gifted artist and spent many hours drawing and telling stories. I thought everyone drew and painted, that this was not unusual.

Grandmother was more concerned that I learn hunting, fishing, and basic survival skills and that I would be self sufficient and depend on no one. I learned to shoot a rifle about the same time I learned to walk.

A green grass lawn was not high on their priority, instead a big, beautiful yard filled with white beach sand became a canvas for my hundreds of drawings.



The University of Florida offered me a scholarship to play baseball. I had a pretty good curveball and better than average fastball but I can't help but believe that my aunt having a romance with the Director of Sports certainly didn't hurt.

Even though I did truly love baseball, I could not force myself to think of a life as an architect, the only program available to my scholarship.....so I did what any 18 year old genius would do....I joined the Navy

Marching in the inaugural parade of John F Kennedy, flying anti-sub patrols in the North Atlantic and later being a crew member on the USS Rankin, one of the ships in the blockade of Russian ships during the Cuban Missile Crisis were a few of the highlights of my Navy career.



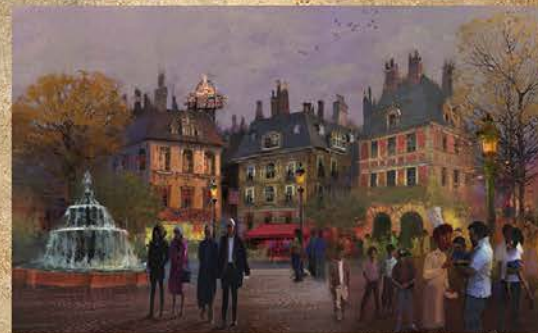


After 4 years the Navy and I were tired of each other so I got out and went to work for the Guided Missile Range division, working aboard one of the tracking ships as communication operator...except for not wearing a uniform it was hardly different from being in the Navy, so I did what any 22 year old genius would do. I took a big pay cut and went to work in the art department drawing and painting technical illustrations for the Apollo program. We were going to put men on the moon!

Shortly after Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind I took my giant leap and opened an art studio in Orlando, Florida providing illustrations for ad agencies and architects.

Then came Disney....even before Walt Disney World opened I began creating illustrations for the marketing department. Shortly afterward I was asked to move to Glendale Ca to work on the design of EPCOT, working with all the great art directors and artists at Disney Studios.

World Showcase, EPCOT, Tokyo Disneyland, Tokyo Disney Seas, Disneyland Paris, Studio Tours, Disneyland Hong Kong, Shanghai Disneyland are projects I have had the pleasure (and pain) of working on.



Epcot design was finished and work was no longer interesting at Disney Imagineering so I did what any 40 year old genius would do.... with my wife, Laurie who was also a Disney artist, quit Disney and moved to Montana!

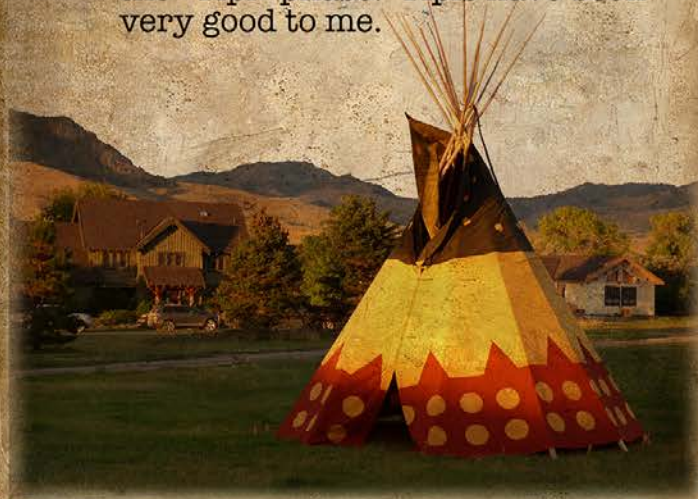
We were not gone long before WDI had found us.....so Disney work continued for both of us. At first by Fedex and phone and then later by Mac and internet.

Not wanting a mortgage we built our home on the Dearborn River in stages, taking 10 years to complete. A movie producer saw our home and could not live without it, made us an offer we could not refuse. So we took the money and ran (bought a beautiful ranch and built a new home)

No horses were injured with this offer

It soon became apparent that I could make as much money with gallery sales as with illustrations. So I did what any 50 year old genius would do.....I started painting fine art instead of illustrations.

One day, just for fun, I sketched and painted a picture of my tipi. I was certain it would be a waste of time, canvas and paint. The opposite was true! Thus began the "Tipi" phase. Tipis have been very good to me.





MM is the Roman numeral 2000. Around the year 2000 the art world changed again for me.

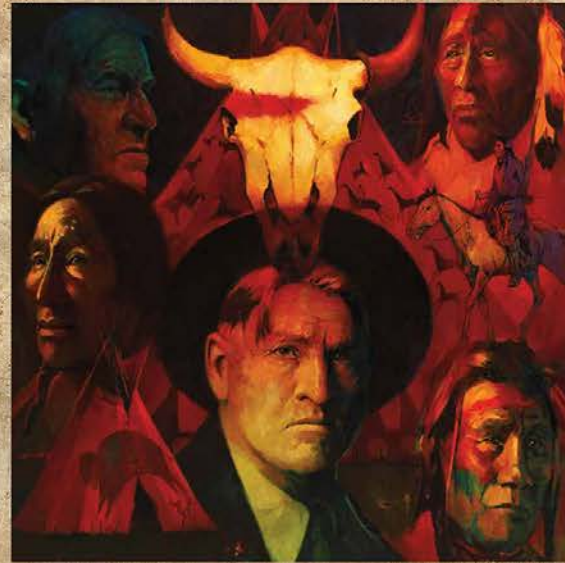
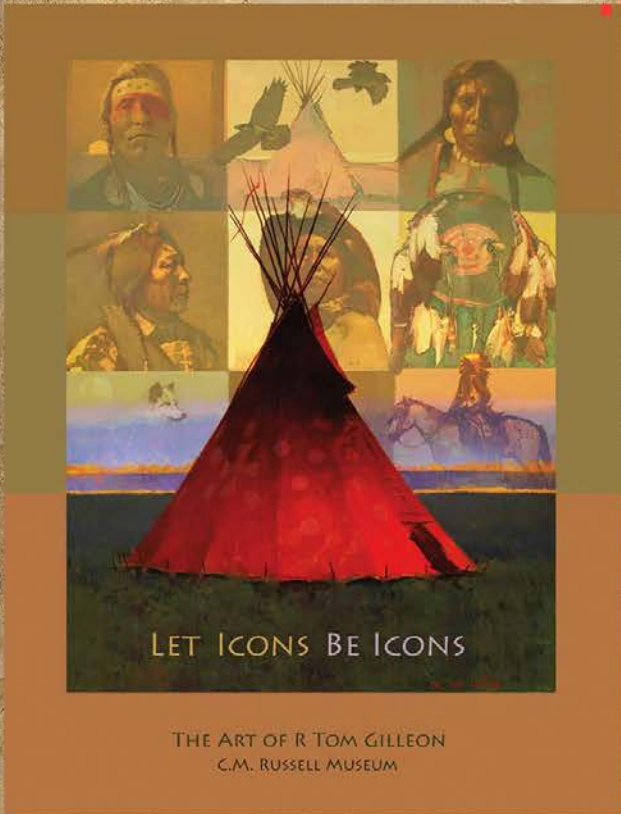
Marshall Monroe, my working partner for many years, introduced me to the Mac. So I did what any 60 year old genius would do, almost immediately my illustrations became digital and this eventually led to Pixoils and the creation of paintings that move.

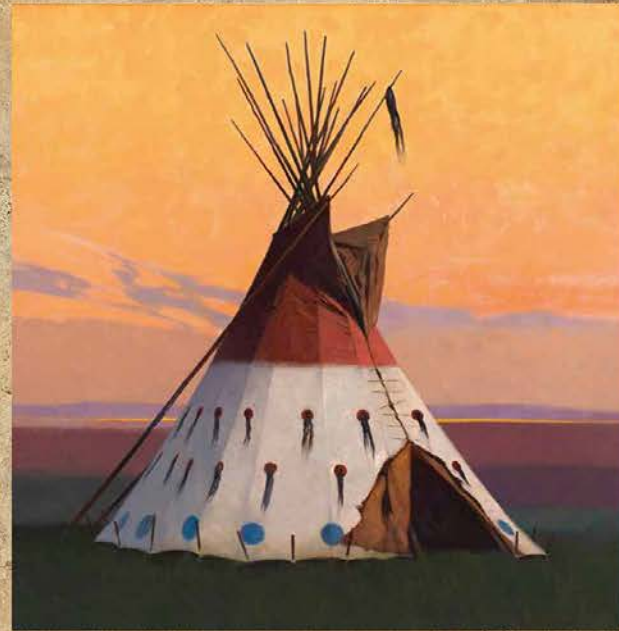
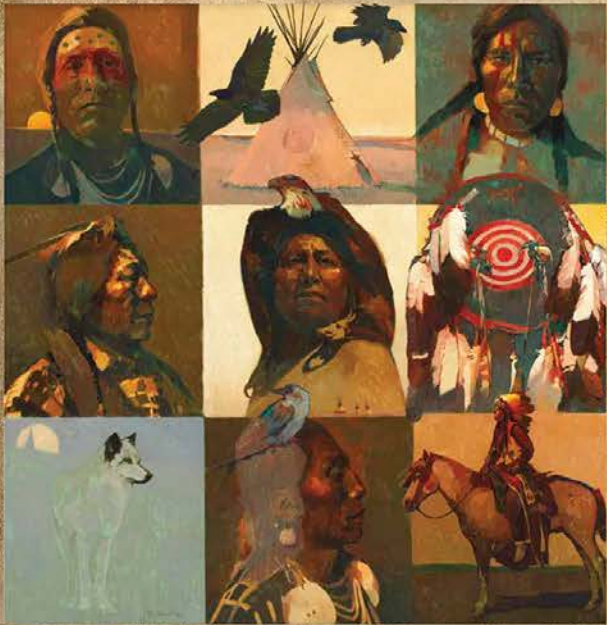
Michael McCall was introduced to me by a mutual Disney friend and began working relationship for sixteen years without ever meeting. Last year we finally met.

One of our many projects was Fair Oaks Farms and that is how I was introduced to the fourth MM. Michael McCloskey and his family. It has been my pleasure to work

with Michael and Barbara McCall, Michael and Sue McCloskey on many design projects. Marshall Monroe was a big addition to the Pool Party art and water features. The only MM that was not a part of Merry Ott pool project was Mickey Mouse!

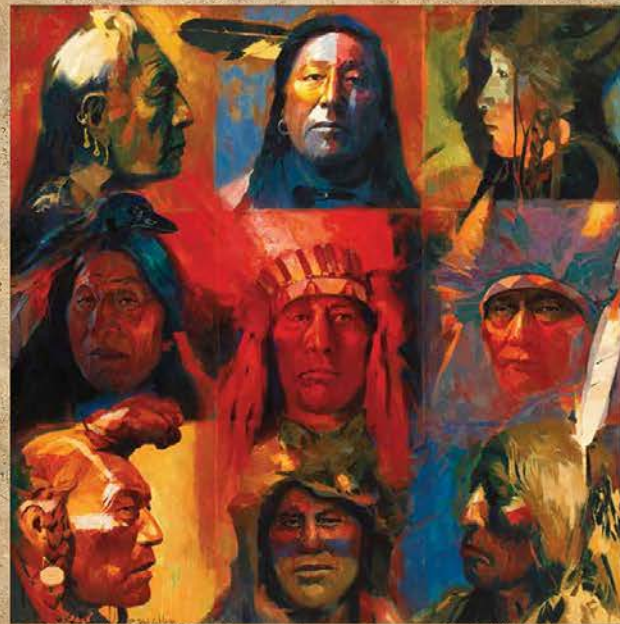
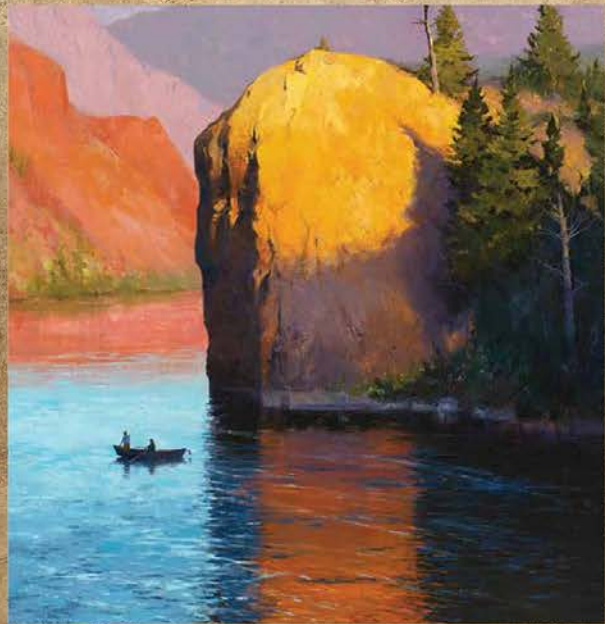


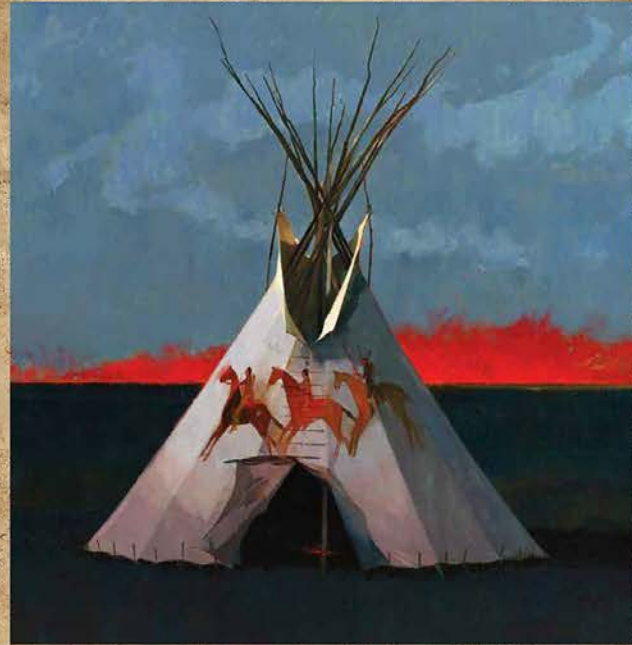
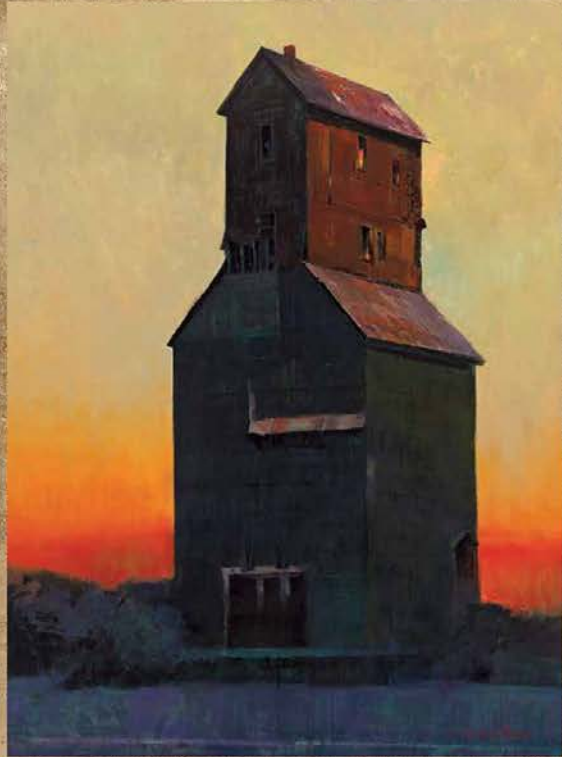












Digital Canvas





Digital Canvas - Fort Mountain



Digital Canvas - Fort Mountain //VIDEO//



*77 Years
in
7 Minutes*

*Lived by
Written by
Illustrated by*

R Tom Gillean