



Rich DiSilvio

A Renaissance Man
for the Digital Age

Born in the Bronx and reared on Long Island, Rich DiSilvio's diversity covers a broad spectrum. He attended college for Advertising Art & Design and Mechanical Technology, as well as an art academy for traditional painting. The latter was led by Harold Stevenson, one of only a handful of protégés ever trained by Norman Rockwell, thus providing Rich with a solid foundation on which to build his own unique style.

Rich first applied his artistic skills in construction when he founded Creative Design Contractors, where he designed and built avant-garde home renovations in Long Island and Manhattan during the 1980s and 90s. With his passion for fine art and multimedia, DiSilvio then switched careers and founded Digital Vista, a design and new media studio that primarily catered to the music and entertainment industries.

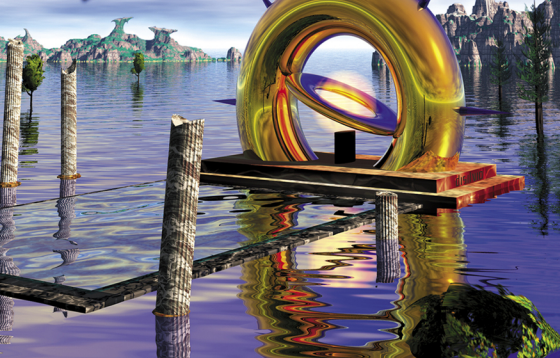
During this period Rich provided creative assets for many star celebrities and super groups, including Pink Floyd, Moody Blues, Cher, Queen, Rolling Stones, Madonna, Jay Z, Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, and included his homage to artist Roger Dean when he created the digital cover art for the YES album Re-union.

Other music-related projects included his Pantheon of Composers porcelain collection, which he created for Lincoln Center and performing arts centers throughout the country and abroad. The series featured DiSilvio's original oil paintings of eight great classical composers reproduced on elegant collector plates, vases, and mugs. It included Italian greats, like Verdi, Puccini and Rossini, among others, and also Peter Tchaikovsky in a memorial constructed of elements of the Bolshoi Theater and Saint Basil's Cathedral, and decorated with key icons from the Russian master's ballets.



Top of the page is one of Rich DiSilvio's artworks, titled "Ancient Architects." Above is an example of his commercial work - for rock star Alice Cooper. Left, his religious work titled "Divine Crucifixion."

Yes (re)union



This page features album covers as designed by Rich DiSilvio for the rock band Yes and for rocker Duane Reddy, not to mention artwork depicting the composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky. On the adjacent page is one of Rich's surreal and dramatic works. This one is titled "Spirit of Sorrow."

jures up the innocence and beauty of youth, while his surreal and fantasy digital art draws viewers into the strange and fascinating worlds of the human imagination, such as "Birth of Venice," "Ancient Architects," or "Humanivor."

During these years Rich had become a voracious reader, primarily of history and biographies. "For decades I had been accumulating a wealth of knowledge that, in one sense, aroused great awareness and fulfillment, yet in another, seemed useless. For what good is acquired knowledge if it's not shared. However, I don't mean simply reiterated, rather it must be carefully analyzed in order to discover new revelations worthy of provoking further thought and hopefully enlightenment. For as I like to say, 'Static knowledge is useless unless it's made kinetic.' And to do that, one needs to investigate, make connections, draw conclusions, and then diligently research further to justify those results, which in turn must be presented to the public to become truly useful."

DiSilvio's eponymous publication was titled "The Winds of Time." The impetus for this tome, he said, came when his eldest daughter, Daniella, was going off to college. "Having aided my daughters with their studies during their formative years I was appalled to see how much of history had been mindlessly or intentionally distorted by a new generation of revisionists, many of whom appeared to have an agenda. As such, my original intention had been to write a brief historical account for my children in order to enlighten them in these discrepancies so that they could inevitably draw their own conclusions."



Having studied a wealth of history I knew how serious it was when those in power attempted to control the minds of their nation's youth. Therefore, I felt it was critical that my children be exposed to alternate viewpoints, ones grounded in research and logic."

What began as a brief essay eventually mushroomed into a behemoth that devoured almost five years of his time. Once presented to family and friends, it was clear that his personal endeavor contained probing essays and a plethora of historical information that had to be published. It was whittled down to its present 740-pages and was first released in 2008. PRIMO magazine had given "The Winds of Time" an outstanding review, as did John J. La Corte, Ph.D. Philosophy professor, and Dr. Gilda Rorro Baldassari who said, "The Winds of Time offers a wealth of information on how Italian cultural heritage informs Western civilization. Of particular interest to me is how it invites the reader to think critically and analytically about the events within the Roman Empire that affect our lives today."

Two years later DiSilvio turned his attention to fiction when he published his first novel, "Liszt's

Dante Symphony," a historical thriller featuring spies, ciphers, and the battles for hegemony that racked Europe for two generations. "A Blazing Gilded Age" followed, being a searing account of the ugly rust (of poverty and abuse) that lied beneath the glittering gilt of rich capitalists, greedy men who had little to no restraints from a government infested with corrupt politicians. It's a powerful American saga that reviewer Patsy Glans opined, "Rich DiSilvio has written not only an entertaining story, but he has given readers an insight into history through his excellent research... I would recommend this book to all readers, especially teachers looking for an entertaining way for their students to explore a critical time in our history." DiSilvio's latest novel, "My Nazi Nemesis," has the honor of being an international Gold Award winner, and features a twisted tale amid the horrors of WWII and the fear that gripped America during the Cold War. As reviewer James Magnus aptly stated, "DiSilvio's plot is cunning and ingenious."

Of special interest to PRIMO readers is that DiSilvio incorporates his Italian heritage into every novel, be it heroic characters

or scenic locations in Italy.

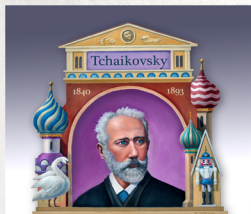
DiSilvio not only turned his attention to writing short stories and even children's books, such as his best-selling "Meet My Famous Friends" picture book, which features humorous parodies on famous people, such as Vincent van Goat, Susan Bee Anthony, and Albert Eine-Stein, but during the 1990s he had also learned computer programming and pioneered the first interactive software for training teachers and parents about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for children with autism. The Autism Academy CD-ROM appeared in 1999 and has helped thousands of individuals with autism.

As DiSilvio said, "I have often been inspired by my children to embark upon projects, some I never would have contemplated otherwise, yet here too, it was my son Richie who inspired this software, which thankfully has helped many children like him."

It is these cumulative endeavors, from art and architecture to literature and software, that have branded Rich DiSilvio as a modern day Renaissance Man.

Editor's Note: More info can be found at www.richdisilvio.com.

Best Of Duane Eddy



Rich's book cover designs span a wide variety of genres, from thrillers and nonfiction to business and fantasy—such as the Wildside Press series of Clark Ashton Smith covers, or one that features his daughter Jamie as a fantasy warrior. Rich also worked on animated projects for historical documentaries, including James Cameron's "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," "Operation Valkyrie," "The War Zone" series, "Return to Kirkuk," "Killing Hitler," and cable TV shows "Celebrity Mole," "Blood Ties," "The Man Show," "Tracey Ullman's State of the Union," and "Monty Python: Almost the Truth."

Other endeavors include DiSilvio's fine art in various galleries, many sold as giclee reproductions on canvas. His "Divine Crucifixion" features a breathtaking vision of Christ's crucifixion that at first strikes the viewer as dramatically surreal, yet upon further reflection becomes faithfully profound. As Pastor Jim Barnum said, "I make sure to bring this spectacular image out for my congregation every Good Friday."

Meanwhile, DiSilvio's tender portrait of his daughter Vanessa, entitled "Precious World," con-