

Studio Talk

Susan Sternau Studios

Custom Art for Creative People

Oils, watercolors, prints, private art lessons

Commissions welcome. Free consultation.



In 2005 on the first weekend of each month – starting February 5th and 6th – my Art Studio in Sausalito will be open for you to browse and visit on Saturday and Sunday from 2-5 pm or by appointment (415.331.1668). Please stop by if you are in the area.

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Why did I paint the *Starry Night* Series?

The new **Starry Night Series** so far includes: *New York Night*, *San Francisco Night*, *Sausalito Night*, and *Sunflower Night*. I thought you might like to know more about why I painted the *Starry Night* Series – because that’s a question I get asked a lot.

I grew up in Manhattan and remember taking the subway downtown with my mother to watch the building of the World Trade Center. I was affected deeply and personally by the tragedy of 9/11. Many artists reacted almost instantly with plays, songs, and artwork. Frankly, I couldn’t get past the imagery from TV of the crumbling towers – and I couldn’t respond as an artist. But by the spring of 2003 I knew I wanted to make a painting that would celebrate New York City – my New York – the city I grew up with, not the wounded city portrayed repeatedly in the media. I began to think of the act of creating this painting as a way to heal myself and my mental image of the city, and as a way to reach out to others who felt the same hurt.



New York Night oil on canvas \$1490



San Francisco Night oil on canvas 18 x24 \$690

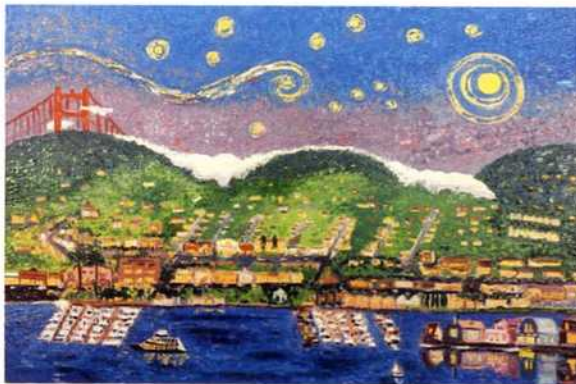
I wanted to paint a tribute to New York’s past and also the reality of its present without the Twin Towers. Oddly, my inspiration was sparked by a trip to Las Vegas where I saw the New York-New York Hotel & Casino for the first time.

Late twilight inspired the most interesting and dramatic light – the time when the lights have come up on the buildings and bridges, but their outlines have not yet melted into the dark.

The Statue of Liberty became my personal statement of patriotism. I wanted a night sky that would communicate a mood of celebration. I’d grown up seeing van Gogh’s original *Starry Night*, which was always on display at the Museum of Modern Art.

The energy of van Gogh’s sky, with that double swirl and the haloes around the moon and stars, is what everyone loves and remembers. I borrowed some of that energy for *New York Night*.

The painting developed from a watercolor study and small oil, evolving into a larger painting. This larger painting has been reproduced as a Limited Edition of 250 Giclée Prints on paper, 16" x 12" (\$85 unframed). The original large oil (40" x 30"), which was exhibited in 2004 in San Rafael, is also still available for \$1490. The first *New York Night* oil and the original watercolor are now both in private New York collections.



Sausalito Night oil on canvas 24 x 36 \$1290

It seemed only natural to continue the series with San Francisco, my adopted hometown. *Sausalito Night* and *Sunflower Night*, two additional images in this fantasy series were completed in 2004. In *Sausalito Night* fog creeps over the hills and a particular cat (our Princess) lurks in a field in *Sunflower Night*, with a nod to the primitive paintings of Henri Rousseau.



Sunflower Night oil on canvas 24 x 36 \$1290

The entire Starry Night Series has been printed on paper. Giclée prints are available for \$85 unframed and \$245 framed. Each framed print is attractively matted and framed with a natural wood studio molding 3/4 inch wide. Ready to hang print measures 19" x 23".



Learn more about the printing process

Giclée Prints (pronounced gee-CLAY) are produced by photographing and scanning original art into a computer. A five foot wide printer (shown at right) uses rolls of specially treated paper or canvas and sprays color as pigmented inks. Prints are carefully proofed to ensure that the colors are true. Because of the digital process, Giclée prints faithfully reproduce the appearance of brush strokes in the original art. The prints are then trimmed, stretched, and varnished to protect the colors.



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