

## Gregory Graham Grant Biography



Graham Grant is an internationally known portrait and nature artist, with original and published works found in public and private collections throughout the world. During a career beginning at age 9 with his first art show, Greg has enjoyed popularity as a representational artist, learning early the value of business and networking skills gleaned from watching and listening to savvy artists, teachers, and mentors who had found improbable success in the art world.

After receiving his BFA in Painting with a Drawing minor from East Carolina University in 1982, Greg worked in the art gallery business in the Washington DC area, eventually becoming the Executive Director of a firm with 10 retail galleries. Connections afforded by this public exposure led to his first major commission, an official portrait of former US Secretary of Labor William J. Usery. This event enabled him to become a full time artist just five years out of college, and launched a 30 year career as a portrait and nature artist. It also allowed him to relocate to the more desirable climate of Central Florida, where he established his studio base from which to conveniently travel for commissioned work. His portrait clients and collectors in addition to William J. Usery, have included such notables as Sheikh Zayed, while President of the United Arab Emirates, Jim Bob Tinsley, western entertainer and writer, former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles, and Betty Jane France, NASCAR matriarch.

Greg's nature and wildlife works feature endangered species, birds of prey, and the familiar landscapes of his homes in Florida and boyhood North Carolina. He has exhibited extensively in outdoor festivals, solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums, and has won numerous awards for his work. His most prestigious honor was participation in "Hunters of the Wild" an invitational traveling exhibition of the world's top 35 wildlife artists. The show debuted in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, and a gala banquet was held in Dubai to honor the artists for their efforts in bringing awareness to conservation efforts of the Arabian Leopard Trust. Greg was one of 4 artists chosen to be representative at these events. His work has been commonly used to help promote conservation efforts and has taken him to exotic locations domestically and abroad. A percentage of sales of prints published from his paintings of the endangered Florida Panther generated much needed funding, an effort which drew an audience with then Florida Governor, Lawton Chiles. The panther recovery program was successful, with numbers of healthy cats now over 300 and growing in the wild, up from an untenable population of between 20 and 30 inbred specimens.

Recruited to fill a vacant teaching position at Daytona Beach Community College in 1987, Greg taught painting and drawing for three years as an adjunct instructor and realized that teaching was very fulfilling. In 1988 he founded the ArtQuest School of Art & Design to promote traditional values in representational styles of art. Today his private school serves some 500 gifted and talented children, teens, and adults annually at its primary location in Ormond Beach, Florida, and through local and regional outreach programs. Most recently, Greg completed a year and a half outreach at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Florida, as the 2D Visual Arts and AP Art teacher. The insights gleaned while working with such a culturally diverse population have proven invaluable.

Greg and his wife Karen enjoy life in Ormond Beach on their small paso fino horse farm, trail ride and travel often, and are constantly entertained by their shorty Jack Russell terrier, Lucy.