

**A Free Riders Press Customer Profile-
2ndnaturecreations**

People get into doing murals on bikes through a variety of ways. Some got into it because of their love of bikes, some by being involved in doing body work and painting cars and trucks. But Mark Mittlesteadt, owner of 2nd Nature Creations, has been a fine artist for over thirty years doing traditional portraits and wildlife paintings. His award winning artwork can be seen on everything, from original canvases to limited edition prints to large wall murals and now also on cars and bikes.

For Mark, painting murals on autos and bikes just meant applying his talent to a different kind of canvas...primed metal. "I never owned a bike and never considered doing paintings on bikes until long after my fine art career was already established. It wasn't until I was approached by someone already familiar with my artwork asking if I would paint a black panther on his Corvette." Mark went on to explain that doing just that one mural on the 'Vette brought all kinds of requests for him to put his work on other cars, trucks, tractor trailers and bikes. Before long his artwork was driving all over the country.

"I had a couple of friends that did auto-body work and they were always asking me if I would do a mural on a car or bike they were painting and I thought, why not? It's really the same thing as the rest of my artwork. It's just a matter of using a different medium and technique. I'd already been using an airbrush for a lot of my work on canvas and board over the years so the application to metal surfaces wasn't anything difficult to master."



Mark relied on his friends to apply the base coats and clear-coating finishes and still uses them to this day. He believes in letting experts at clear coating apply their work to his murals, saying that the base and clear coats are extremely important in how the finished mural looks. "My work is all about the artwork itself, the look it creates, the design that fits in with the existing line flow of a tank, fender or fairing and making it appear like it really belongs on that particular bike." Each bike mural is always a custom job. "I never do the same thing twice. Some guys are real good at doing one thing very well like flames or skulls or what-have-you, but with my work each bike needs it's own unique piece that not only reflects the style and outline of the bike itself, but it really has to show the owner's personality as well."

His mural work isn't about exotic looking patterns as one would find with mass produced decal applications. While he can do photo-realistic flames and patterns, he prefers to incorporate them into his work rather than doing "just another flame job". Mark works closely with each client to determine what will work best on the individual's bike that suits the owner ideas. If someone is going to the trouble of having their bike customized, why not just go all out and make it something no one else has?

Really, there isn't a subject Mark can't paint, or a surface he can't paint it on. It's all about the art. Mark can be reached at 715-571-7020 or e-mailed at info@2ndnaturecreations.com. You can see more of Mark's work at either...www.2ndnaturecreations.com or www.markmittlesteadt.com.



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All the names and card numbers we receive will be placed into a drawing at the ABATE of Wisconsin State Seminar in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on October 9, 2011. You need not be present nor a member of ABATE to be eligible. There will be three winners from Wisconsin and three winners from Illinois drawn. Prizes are \$1,000, \$250 and \$150 for first, second and third place from each state. If the top prize winner is a member of ABATE of Wisconsin, we will donate an additional \$500 to ABATE of Wisconsin.

Pick up bumper stickers at various bike events you see the Hupy and Abraham S.C. booth or call Tony at 1-800-800-5678 and request your bumper stickers. You can also email pan@hupy.com. For your best chance at being noticed, place a sticker on the front and rear bumper. Spread the word to Watch for Motorcycles and maybe win \$1,000 for your efforts.

Only one entry per person is allowed and no employee or immediate family member of Hupy and Abraham S.C. is eligible. This promotion is solely sponsored by Hupy and Abraham S.C. and is not a promotion of ABATE of Wisconsin.

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