

ANGELA STRATTON

ARTIST

Achievement Awards
American Artist Magazine
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

Re: Teachers Achievement Award/OILS

My Nomination is for Mr. Cesare Borgia.

When I started studying with Cesare Borgia, I knew almost nothing about art, except for a strong love and desire to paint like the Old Masters. I found Mr. Borgia by chance, but it was not chance that has made me a professional artist today. Yes, I worked long and hard, but it was the right teacher that has made the difference.

Not only has he been a great art teacher, but an overwhelming inspiration to me, taught me discipline, perseverance, has been and still gives me constant encouragement. He has guided me spiritually to find my inner self to inspire the creation of my art work. I have never met a person so giving of his time, love, knowledge and self.

Mr. Borgia felt it his obligation to teach the Frank Reilly method of art that inspired him so much, he did not want this technique to be lost. His love and dedication to art and teaching kept him at the Reilly League of Artists for all these years. He always said, 'if but one student makes it, I have succeeded'. When ever I did a good painting, he would be so pleased, I often wondered, who was happier, him or me. He never gave up on me, his patience is amazing.

He took me back in history to such great masters as Michaelangelo, Valazques, Rembrandt, Sargent, an endless list of individual artists, with individual styles. He taught me to see and understand how they painted, the use of thick and thin paint, warm and cool colors, how to soften and vary the edges, clean paint, dirty paint, he has an endless list of knowledge of these great masters, and so willing to share it with his students.

So any of his students have become self supporting artists, either through portraiture, teaching, illustrations, graphics, some have even won grants to pursue specialized art fields.

Mr. Cesare Borgia deserves to win this award. This one man has effected so many lives. It would mean so much to me and his other students for him to win this award. He gives so much and is so humble that he takes back only the enjoyment of our success. This award would symbolize all the love and dedication he has given to the art world.

I would like to thank the American Artist Magazine for offering this award, to acknowledge all the wonderful teachers out there

Sincerely,



Angela Stratton
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Yonkers, NY 10704

studio: 914 237-5220



American Artist Magazine
Achievement Award

I would like to nominate Cesare Borgia for the Teachers
Achievement Award in Oils.

I am currently studying oil painting under Cesare Borgia at
the Reilly League of Artist, Inc. in White Plains NY.

When I started with Mr. Borgia, I stressed the desire to
learn landscape painting. He said 'good, go work from the
model, what you learn there, you can transfer to any type of
painting'. He was right. When he was explaining to me how
to make various greens for landscapes, he would say, 'don't
take my word for it, try it'. He was right. Or when he says
'do it over', I do it over, because he is the master.

Mr. Borgia has a great insight to each individual students
needs and how to enhance their progress. He has proven to
me that he is a great teacher by my own progress and of
those around me. He has such a strong desire to teach, as
each student progresses, he sees it as his success.

Cesare Borgia's knowledge of art is masterful. All the
money in the world cannot take the place of what Mr. Borgia
gives to me. I am blessed to be his student and its a great
honor for me to be around him and obsorb his knowledge.

Oscar Santiago
54 West Park Place
Stamford, Ct 06902
(203) 324-9333

FRAN LEW

October 30, 1992

Achievement Awards
American Artist Magazine
1515 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10036

Re: Teacher Achievement Award/Oil

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Cesare Borgia for the Teacher Achievement Award/Oils. As a student of Mr. Borgia for three years, I feel it was truly a privilege for me to have had the opportunity to study with Mr. Borgia and to receive the benefit of his teachings and vast knowledge. He is a great teacher and a very special man.

Mr. Borgia has been the founder and instructor at the Reilly League of Artists in White Plains, N.Y. since 1973. During the years of 1974-1978, four of his students received the Greenshield Foundation Award. His students have developed into accomplished illustrators and fine artists. Enclosed are samples of artwork by Mr. Borgia's students, including my own, exemplifying the variety and richness of talent that flourishes under Mr. Borgia's guidance.

As for myself, although I studied oil painting extensively prior to studying with Mr. Borgia and I have an MFA degree, I attribute the greatest part of my learning, the breadth and depth, to Mr. Borgia. Presently, I am a successful artist, fully engaged in painting portraits by commission and am listed in Who's Who in American Art. My recent commissions include portraits of Governor Mario M. Cuomo, First Lady of New York State, Matilda Cuomo, Nobel Laureate, executives of major corporations. I have won major awards at important national exhibitions. All these successes

were made possible by Mr. Borgia's teaching.

Mr. Borgia teaches the fundamentals of oil painting that have been handed down through the ages. Basic to his teaching are the techniques of oil painting-glazing, scumbling, use of palette knife and the application of thick and thin paint. In addition to techniques and most important, Mr. Borgia teaches the principles of art - creative use of edgework, strong stress on values, composition, use of focal point and good drawing, all of which are basic to understanding oil painting. At all times, Mr. Borgia teaches these techniques and principles as tools for students to develop their own individuality and to be able to express this individuality in their oil paintings. Rather than teach one technique or one approach, many are taught and the student is inspired to think for himself, develop and individual vision and his own orientation as an artist. Mr. Borgia's ability and desire to convey abstract concepts, philosophical thinking to enrich the teachings of the techniques and principles of oil painting inspire his students to reach great heights. He is a great teacher, dedicated and committed to his students to help each one reach their full potential as an artist.

Mr. Borgia studied with Frank Reilly for five years and Robert Schultz for two years.

Mr. Borgia has influenced my life as an artist as well as a human being in immeasurable ways. It is with great appreciation and gratitude for the gift of Mr. Borgia's teaching, guidance, encouragement and consistent support that I write this letter.

It is my honor to nominate Mr. Borgia for the Teacher Achievement Award/oils.

Respectfully,

Fran Lew

Grieco Studios

181 Westchester Ave. • Port Chester, N.Y. 10573
Tel. (914) 937-1951

American Artist
1515 Broadway
N.Y. N.Y. 10036

October 9, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

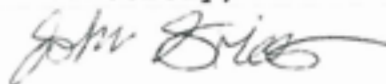
I am pleased and proud to offer this letter for the consideration of Mr. Cesare Borgia regarding "The Teacher of the Year" award sponsored by the American Artist magazine.

I began to study with Mr. Borgia in 1976 and continued with him until 1984. Starting as a novice I developed into a professional artist. As a student of Mr. Borgia, I was awarded The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Memorial Grant, (see attached).

Mr. Borgia gave all of his students clear direction, constant encourage and guidance, positive critiques and a wealth of information in the techniques of drawing and painting. His philosophy of teaching is to "eliminate the need for a teacher." To this day as I paint, I still hear his words and continue to unfold the versatile meaning of the concepts he spoke of many years ago.

I feel privileged to have studied under Mr. Borgia whose devotion to art and artists has inspired many students to pursue a career in the Fine Arts.

Sincerely,



John Grieco

Kathi Vahila-DeLisa
ARTIST
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September 10, 1992

Achievement Awards
American Artist Magazine
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

RE: Teachers Achievement Award for
CESARE BORGIA
79 Prospect St.
White Plains, NY 10606
(914) 946-0054

Dear American Artist Staff,

I would like to nominate Cesare Borgia for the "Teacher Achievement Award/Oils." Let me tell you why-----

I met Mr. Borgia over 25 years ago. He taught art, I was just a "sometimes do-sometimes don't" art hobbyist. Today, I am a professional free-lance artist and teacher. All of this, because of the inspiration, dedication and knowledge of one art teacher, Cesare Borgia.

Cesare Borgia is an exceptional artist, a good painter as well as a great teacher. His goal is to impart his knowledge and expertise that he learned from his years of study with Frank Reilly at the Art Student's League. Mr. Borgia has dedicated over 25 years to communicating to students the science of painting and drawing as well as providing guidance in the search for personal artistic growth and development.

Mr. Borgia opened "The Cesare Borgia School of Art" in the early 1970's to provide an atelier atmosphere in which students could learn to draw and paint realistically. Models were available six hours daily and three hours in the evening. Mr. Borgia taught students to capture the action of the model. He encouraged students to be sensitive to the moods and uniqueness of the models and to capture the essence of the subject. Borgia emphasized the importance of

values, the use of a variety of edges and most important the effects of light and how it falls on the subject(s) and/or object(s). He taught techniques of the "Old Masters," encouraging us to learn from them and apply them to our own paintings.

Mr. Borgia inspired in us a respect of our chosen profession. He shared his philosophy and ideals of art. He encouraged each of us to open our minds to the varieties of human emotions and to express them in our painting. Borgia encouraged us to challenge him or any art authority and often said, "Don't take my word for it, check me out."

Borgia encouraged creativity and individuality. He did not want his students to paint like him or anyone else. "There is only ONE way to paint and that is YOUR way," he would tell us. And he would add that "knowledge is freedom, freedom to paint YOUR way."

Cesare Borgia has been the biggest influence in my adult life. This man believed in me and my ability. Learning to draw and paint did not come easy for me. Cesare not only taught me to use my ability and develop painting skills, but taught me to believe in myself. He encouraged me, guided me and never let me give up. "Persistence, determination." he would say. "There are a lot of talented derelicts on the Bowery. If you want to be an artist, then be an artist." The motto of his students is "To do is to be." We even had "To do is to be" printed on cups and tee shirts lest we should forget.

It is because of Mr. Borgia's sincere interest in his students and his dedication to disseminate all his knowledge that I am a professional free-lance artist and teacher today.

Borgia turned his school over to his dedicated students after several years, to allow him to spend more of his time teaching rather than dealing with business details. "The Cesare Borgia School of Art" became "The Reilly League of Artists, Inc." and is still in existence today in White Plains, NY. Cesare Borgia continues to dedicate himself to teaching the fundamentals and principles of representational art and continues to encourage and guide his students.

In closing I would like to quote a piece Mr. Borgia wrote for his students:

It is my responsibility to help the students see the art of any given period in the light of its own social, political and cultural climate: To understand that the esthetic laws and technical considerations of one period

cannot be superimposed upon another: To make known to the student the varying convictions of leading artists, both past and present, in order to help him make his own judgements: To learn that art and progress are not concerned with conformity: To equip the student to deal with the novel without ridicule or fear of its strangeness, yet without being impressed by sheer novelty and with the ability to probe the depths of the unfamiliar.

For all these reasons and so many more (they would fill another three pages) I nominate Cesare Borgia for the Teacher Achievement Award/Oils.

If you need any further information, please contact me at the above address. Thank you for considering Mr. Borgia for this award. He deserves to be recognized for his outstanding teaching ability in art.

Sincerely yours

Kathi Vahila - DeLisa
Kathi Vahila-DeLisa

ART WORKSHOPS
PRIVATE INSTRUCTION



Kathi Vahila - DeLisa

ARTIST

PORTRAITS, ANIMALS, ILLUSTRATION

STUDIO
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PATRICIA MINER-SUTHERLAND

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Achievement Awards
American Artist Magazine
1515 Broadway
New York
N.Y. 10036

August 29th, 1992

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read your announcement of your Second Annual Achievement Award especially since I can think of no better way to pay tribute to a wonderful, inspiring teacher whose name sprang to my mind immediately. His name is Cesare Borgia, a man who has selflessly dedicated his life to his students.

I first came to Cesare's studio 19 years ago after I had studied art in Europe, the Far East and Latin America. Soon after meeting him he asked me "What are you going to do with the talent that God has given to you?" and, the very next day, I became one of his pupils trying to absorb his principles of art, value system, flesh tones, action lines and so on.

Cesare's studio was composed of an eclectic group of dedicated artists who painted morning, afternoon and night. Models posed for us daily, Cesare was always at hand to give advice and encouragement and time flew by so that we barely noticed the seasons! There were many newcomers to the studio whose only talents appeared to be patience and perseverance but, thanks to the guiding hand of this wonderful man, most of them blossomed into very good artists.

Thirteen years ago, the "Cesare Borgia School" was renamed the "Reilly League of Artists" in tribute to Cesare's teacher at the Art Students League - Frank Reilly. This step was taken to relieve Mr. Borgia of such financial pressures as studio rent and model hire and the Reilly League of Artists became a non-profit organization run by the students. For the past five years, mainly due to the worsening general economic situation, there has been no remuneration for Mr. Borgia who, nevertheless, has never stopped coming to give lectures and teach and encourage us all.

Cesare Borgia has, in turn, inspired me to pass on the knowledge which I have acquired and I give lessons to several groups both young and old (including the Larchmont Senior Center where over 30 senior citizens have found a new



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interest in their golden years). Amongst my younger students are included pupils from the Larchmont and Scarsdale school systems (over 120 of them, enthusiastically learning the value system, flesh tones, action lines etc.)

As you may have guessed by now, my whole life is devoted to painting - including a number of exhibitions - and teaching art. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a brief resume, several critics' remarks on my work and a kind letter from the Mayor of Larchmont. I hope that these will help to convince you of the genuineness of my remarks about Mr. Cesare Borgia whom I sincerely believe merits your strong consideration for your Achievement Awards.

Yours very sincerely

Patricia Miner-Sutherland
Patricia Miner-Sutherland

CESARE BORGIA

The *first* time I met Cesare Borgia, he put a brush in my hand, pointed to the model and proceeded to give me my first oil painting lesson before I could say another word. This is Cesare Borgia – seizing the moment in his tireless, inspirational way. Immediately, I knew I had found my teacher. Unlike other teachers, Cesare asks no questions. All he perceived in me, and all he still requires, is a *desire* to learn. He is, without a doubt, the most positive, the most dedicated and the most inspiring teacher I have every had.

When Cesare walks in the door, he exudes positiveness. With him, anything is possible. As long as a student is willing to work, no project any student undertakes is discouraged. When other teachers say "no," Cesare says, "of course!" Around him, many feel for the first time in their lives they positively *can* do their painting the way they have always dreamed. By emphasizing one's positive traits and refusing to consider anything negative about an individual, Cesare helps a student's self-esteem soar. Constantly encouraging students to persevere when they are down he is a refreshing source of confidence in a negative world.

His dedication to his students and his art is tireless. I have never known him not to be available for anything, day or night, for a talk or conference. I have taken courses at large prestigious NYC art schools where the instructors hardly show up and are chronically absent. Not Cesare. Regardless of class attendance, he is there for one or forty. This generous dedication is also contagious, for students begin to show the same dedication to their work that he patiently shows to them. His dedication to his craft is a great example. Away from the studio, he is always drawing on napkins at lunch or talking about the color of the sunset. An incredibly poetic painter, his knowledge of oil painting is vast. Many principles of painting I had never heard of from previous teachers were there just for the asking from Cesare. He recommends books I never knew existed. Some teachers jealously withhold information; from Cesare, there is a constant flow of stimulating material and passionate involvement – to *feel* the brush strokes rather than just mimic. Hardly pedantic, he never requires that one paint like him and very rarely brings his work around. The only art work on the walls of his school are the students' – a tribute to his dedication.

Cesare Borgia is the most inspiring man I have ever met. He gives lessons in painting; he gives positive encouragement; he gives tireless, dedicated hours – but, most of all, he gives a student a belief in *himself*. I have seen him take individuals riddled with doubt and of the rawest abilities and turn them into very fine artists, all the while taking no credit and attributing it to simply the student's hard work and desire to learn. He could just give lessons and not care. But he does care. He does not give up. Students may, but he never does. Cesare *lives* the credo: "If not you, who? If not now, when?" Discouraged and tired, the painting class would say: "When's Cesare coming in?" Soon, the door would burst open, we would hear his resonant voice attacking our canvases and our fears and doubts about ourselves and abilities put to rest once again.

– Michael Calloway