

Modern Day Meisners Carry on Family Tradition



Renee and Joel Meisner, charter members of the Artexpo Hall of Fame, revolutionized the art industry with their sculpture foundry where they produced everything from Erté bronzes to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC

*“I am very proud of my daddy’s name
Although his kind of music and mine
ain’t exactly the same ...”*
— [Hank Williams, Jr.](#)

MITCHELL MEISNER was but a school boy when the first Artexpo was held in 1978 at the New York Coliseum. But he was there, setting up his parents’ booth where they were exhibiting their wares. Today, a generation later, he and his wife Hillary have moved into a new state of the art casting facility in Deer Park, NY, a stone’s throw from where it all began. Today Meisner Art Casting continues the family tradition of excellence and innovation

“We’ve been out of the Artexpo and art retail business for a while and frankly, I’m missing that,” said Mitch in a recent interview with *Fine Art Magazine* publisher Jamie Forbes. “We’ve had Meisner Gallery on Long Island and Meisner Soho and we’ve done shows in Paris, Belgium and all over the United States. So we decided to jump back in and show some fresh artists, some new things that we like, some things that we make and some original paintings. We’re working with a well known ‘old-timer’ Billy the Artist, Dylan Morris and Colombian artists Jhon Cuesta whose work reflects the critical and social situation of these times.”

Meisner Art Casting’s motto is “We work with you every step of the way from concept to creation enabling your project to be brought to fruition carrying on the quality we have been known for over 50 years.” There have been many high points during that half century but none more important and relevant than the casting of the 3,000-pound bronze depicting three fighting men, each 7 feet tall. Unveiled before 200,000 veterans who had assembled to hear Pres. Reagan speak in tribute to those who



Hillary and Mitchell Meisner at their Deer Park, NY production facility [Meisner Art Casting](#)

had served in Vietnam, Joel Meisner, then 47 years of age, was joined by the reknown sculptor Frederick Hart. It was the pinnacle of both their illustrious careers and the *New York Times* article related a poignant scene at the unveiling when one of those veterans approached Joel and simply said, “Thank you.” Mr. Meisner responded, “Why are you thanking me?” Replied the former soldier, “I’m thanking you for making me free because for 15 years I couldn’t hold my head up. Now that the statute is here, I feel that I have been accepted by the American people.”

The Meisners carried on for another decade or so, retiring when Renee was diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer’s. Mitchell picked up the reins and never looked back. With his wife of some 20 years, Hillary, they have changed with the times and went from the “Lost Wax Method” to developing an acrylic casting foundry that

can make anything from from one piece to thousands in sizes up to 14’ x 5’ weighing as much as 10,000 pounds. Originally opened to cast works for artists represented by Meisner Gallery, the facility is now open to all artists and other professionals. With this many years in the business of “Making Beautiful Things” the Meisners certainly have the ability to get most any job done. For further information:

<http://acryliccasting.com/index.html>



Champion Shepherd modeling for the AKC’s DOGNY fund-raising project

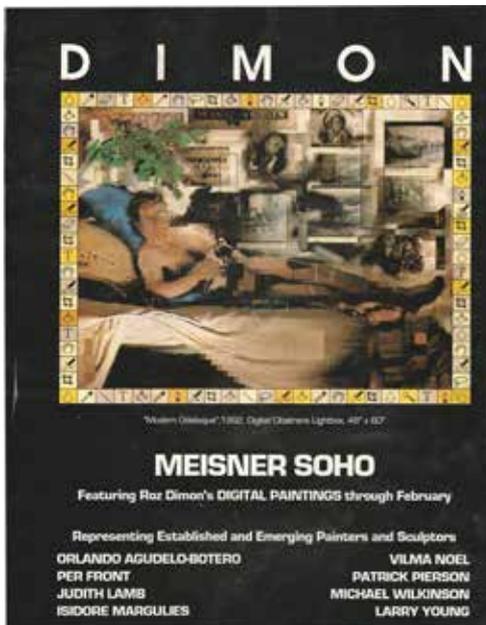
PHOTO BY JAMIE ELLIN FORBES



Joel Meisner in 1982, with Zorba himself Anthony Quinn, preparing sculptures for Artexpo



Ever the artist, Mitchell Meisner



Whether the Lost Wax Method or the latest in digital art technology, as evinced by cutting edge artist Roz Dimon in 1993, the Meisner family was always at the forefront. Above is the back cover ad for Meisner Soho Gallery in Fine Art.



Movie star Danny Aiello with fellow thespian and artist Frank Bongiorno meet Mitch Meisner at Artexpo for a cover of Fine Art Magazine



Mold making



When casting 10,000 pound acrylics, you need some heavy artillery



When Fine Art Magazine needed something special for our "Heroes of Creativity" awards, we went to the Meisners who created the above piece. Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dion DiMucci, one of the recipients wrote us as follows: "Hey Victor, thank you so much & Fine Art, I'm truly honored ~ wow!!! That's one beautiful, good-looking award ~ let's keep rockin'~d"