

# CHRISTOPHER SCHINK



California watercolorist Christopher Schink is known for his bold, direct, semiabstract paintings that feature colorful, simple geometric shapes. A popular teacher, Schink has taught in over 45 states as well as in Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Australia.

He recently became concerned that, as a result of his teaching, he was producing paintings that were didactic rather than heartfelt. To bring back the creative edge in his work, Schink decided to rely on his intuition rather than intellect. He began using acrylic paint to adjust or correct areas of his watercolor paintings where his intuition may have led him astray.

When Schink did a recent series of jazz musicians, he used color in a wide range of intensities and hues—whatever best fit his initial reaction. But when he

switched to classical musicians, he found the feeling of his paintings changed.

Classical musicians, Schink soon discovered, have another look. They dress differently, play other instruments, and even hold their instruments in another way. The jazz musicians' intense, vibrant color interactions did not work for the classical musicians. "My first attempts at a classical violinist," says Schink, "looked and felt more like someone who plays at a cheap Hungarian restaurant rather than Jascha Heifetz in concert." To correct the look, Schink altered his normal color and intensity range, switching to muted color, greater value contrast, and more calligraphic and gestural brushwork. This approach made his musicians more exact and naturalistic and far less decorative, but it also gave them a

dignified appearance—a classical look. "It's important to distinguish between an expressive style and old habits," says Schink.

Christopher Schink is the author of two books: *Mastering Color and Design in Watercolor* (1981) and *Color and Light for Painters in Watercolor* (September 1995, both Watson-Guption Publications). One of 40 watercolorists selected to represent the U.S. in the 1994 China-U.S.A.-Australia Watermedia Exhibition invitational in Taiwan, Schink is a member of the National Watercolor Society and the West Coast Watercolor Society. He is also an hon-

orary member of the Federation of Canadian Artists. His work has been included in *Watercolor U.S.A.* and *Watercolor West* shows. He has had one- and two-person exhibits at the Asheville Art Museum (North Carolina), Columbia Art Museum (South Carolina), Jackson Gallery (Mississippi), Springfield Art Center (Ohio), and Mendocino Art Center (California).

His paintings are in the collections of IBM and RCA Victor, and are shown at Harbor Square Gallery (Camden, Maine) and in Canada at Harbour Gallery (Toronto) and Deagle Fine Art Gallery (Jasper, Alberta). Schink is represented by Artworks International in Silver Springs, Maryland. His work was also featured in the 1990 issue of *Watercolor*. He lives in Redwood City, California.



**Left: *String Duet*, 1995, watercolor and acrylic, 28 x 42. Collection Martha Hughes. In this painting, the side-by-side positioning of the two musicians emphasizes their relationship. The color is subdued, with the focus on the abstract design and composition.**

**Opposite page: *String Quartet I*, 1994, watercolor, 42 x 25. Collection the artist. Schink has recreated the sound of the music in visual terms with his geometric design, unified values, and balanced diagonals.**



