

# Gary Martin McLaughlin

## PAINTER OF LEGENDS



Dubbed “Rockwell of the North” by art directors because of his considerable talent in rendering human forms, Gary has parlayed his unique skills into a career spanning over 30 years as an artist and commercial illustrator.

Gary graduated from Toronto’s Ontario College of Art in 1978. His first assignment was to paint an original canvas for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maple Leaf Gardens. Harold Ballard commissioned the work and personally directed the details of the images in the montage. The original hung in the lobby of the arena for over a decade.



“Timbits” featured on coffee mugs for Tim Horton’s Ltd.

One of Gary’s specialties is sports collages. These projects not only take exceptional time in research and planning but

require exceptional patience in painstakingly creating dozens if not hundreds of individual portraits into one large mural of art. These are projects that very few artists undertake for their extreme dedication of time to one painting. Gary has not only created a niche for himself, but has established himself as one of, if not the premier World sports collage artist!

His most renowned sports collage creation was “Blue Sky – White Snow” where Gary commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs by painting the portraits of all 765 players to don a Maple Leaf jersey onto a 12’ x 6’ canvas! He then went on to create his “Original Six” series which featured Hall of Fame Players from each of the original six NHL teams skillfully positioned to create the logo of each team upon a hockey rink.



His most recent works were dedicated to his country’s only true Canadian sports league – the CFL. “Canadian Football – Our Game”

He continued to develop and perfect his skills and artistic style while doing considerable commercial work including painting romance novel covers for Harlequin Books. Over the years Gary has been commissioned by public organizations and private individuals to produce paintings for their collections, these canvases are predominantly portraits but also include a wide range of other subjects.

His artwork has graced the covers of magazines, compact discs, collector plates, china, corporate reports and year end journals, supermarket displays, cereal boxes, novels, newspaper and magazine ads and limited edition prints.

Some of Canada’s leading companies have also reached out to Gary to produce artwork for them. Gary created “Canadian Outdoors” for Canadian Tire along with a series called



is a painting that is of historic significance to the sports, cultural and Canadian art landscape. Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grey Cup, the 4' x 6' oil painting features the leagues iconic trophy and its namesake "Earl Grey" among 60 Grey Cup Champions from every era of the game.

Another commemoration was in the works when he created "TC - 75 for 145" to recognize the 145<sup>th</sup> consecutive season of professional football in Hamilton Ontario, and the launch of their new stadium. Gary painted all 75 of the teams' Hall of Fame and other individually recognized players onto a 4' x 6' mural that not only depicted the history of Tiger-Cat football but also incorporated a series of landmarks recognizable to the city of Hamilton.

Gary's next project is already on the canvas as he commemorates the all-time greats of professional boxing.

Gary has also completed an extensive collection of "sportraits". He has painted many sports superstars such as Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Orr, Bobby Hull, and Gordie Howe among others. He has not limited himself to just hockey as his collection includes many NFL stars such as John Elway, Emmitt Smith and Joe Namath and sports legends such as George Chuvalo and Gilles Villeneuve.

Gary uses a realistic painterly style developed from his years of experience in painting faces, portraits and people at work, play and sport. He uses various media including oils, acrylics, pastels, gouache and graphite and has mastered their use to suit each particular project. With his expertise, he has molded them together to create an exceptional sports art style all his own.

