



# Erin Cone

Santa Fe, New Mexico • [www.erincone.com](http://www.erincone.com)



AS IS USUALLY THE CASE with my work, my inspirations were simply the beauty of the human figure and its expressive potential when presented in a framework of pure design. I turn again and again to explore this balance—trying to find where realism and abstraction meet and merge.

This pose came directly from the model I photographed. From there,

I composed the image digitally to arrive at the most evocative visual solution. I then proceeded traditionally: drawing the image on the canvas and painting in acrylic to build up thin layers of color and achieve the finished look.

I'm never completely sure about a color palette until the end since I always begin with the figure and paint the background last. Often,

that final choice of background color sets off the subject in ways I couldn't have imagined. I never tire of seeing that process unfold.

I knew I wanted to be an artist from a very young age. I majored in art in college, graduating with a bachelor of fine arts in painting, but college left me unsure about pursuing fine art as a career, so I worked briefly in the publishing and design

industry before deciding I had to try my luck as an artist, no matter what. Fortunately, at age 24, I was offered gallery representation and a solo show. I haven't looked back. I've now had 17 solo shows in 11 years, and I'm just as excited about my art now as I was when I began. ■

LEFT: *Ingénue* (acrylic, 36x36)



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