

Dan Nelson, Illustrator/Artist, creator of "Truman"

Dan Nelson failed the very first assignment of his academic career.

On day one of kindergarten, he colored the balloons instead of counting them. The artistic itch was already that strong. Undaunted by such inauspicious beginnings, he went on to win a string of prestigious awards:

2nd Place, National Safety Poster Contest!

3rd Place, Local Pumpkin Carving Contest!

1st Place, Small Town Window Painting Competition (against a bunch of kids roughly half his age, as it turned out)

Naturally, such accolades kept the itch going, so he went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from a small college in the Midwest. His real education however, took place during the 15 or 20 years when he sat at his desk 50 or 60 hours a week drawing whatever the telephone (ad agencies mostly) told him to draw. Most Americans would have stumbled upon Dan's work at sometime during the 80s or 90s – in restaurants and sporting good stores, at summer camps and public libraries, from IBM to hospitals and book covers to billboards. "I'm really famous," he used to tell his kids, "just nobody knows it."

Three forces conspired to make him the diverse and gifted artist that he is today:

- 1.) The joy of creating,
- 2.) Clients with deadlines
- 3.) The threat of starvation

Dan now divides his time between illustration and fine art still doing a wide variety of work – airbrush, realism, cute (or funny) cartoons, architectural renderings, street painting, portraits and landscapes in oil. He loves painting large and he loves an audience, so doing 8 x 10 foot murals in public is one of his favorite activities. One of Dan's singular delights has been developing and producing Truman for the covers of Kidsville News! You may see some of his wide ranging work at DanNelsonFineArt.com