

*Spring 2015*  
*Portraiture in the Grand Manner*  
*www.johnseibelswalker.com*



*Happy spring everyone!*

*Spring is finally in the air here in Charlotte ~  
and we cannot help but think of this very special Canadian portrait project  
as we find ourselves grateful for how very precious life is:*

<http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/fortney-little-nathan-obrien-remembered-on-the-ice>

# *POSTHUMOUS PORTRAIT OF NATHAN O'BRIEN*

## *PROFILES IN PORTRAITURE*

*John Seibels Walker*

*Portraiture in the Grand Manner*

*[www.johnseibelswalker.com](http://www.johnseibelswalker.com)*

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*My goal as an artist with this portrait was to record for posterity not only an accurate likeness, but also the shining young personality and life of five year old Nathan O'Brien. Capturing the spirit and likeness of such a beautiful and happy young child taken from this world at such an early age could never be an easy task. Every posthumous portrait project is full of special challenges, beginning with the need to cobble together workable images and information of a suitable quality where one then has good options to use for creating a work of art.*

*My primary reference for this portrait was one particular digital photo of a high enough quality to work from that showed Nathan in a very casual pose ebulliently happy during a day when he was out in nature with his family. In fact, one could even say that he had an angelic glow as the sunlight streamed down directly upon him - and also seemingly from him.*

*I chose to take that special image and combine it with a setting inspired from a photo of his whole family together from that same spring day out in the woods with a stream in the background. Those, and other choices, serve as metaphors for the portrait. The season of springtime is depicted symbolizing Nathan's youth and innocence. The inclusion of a river also has special significance.*

*Whether one looks at Greek mythology, Christian stories, or Confucius, the river symbolizes everything from the death of sin and passing into new life to dying and crossing into heaven - or simply, the passing of time and life itself. Writers such as Tolkien and C.S. Lewis put heaven across the water, and so the water in the portrait is also a metaphor for that, as is the beautiful pathway on the banks across the river that leads up into the light. Overall, this is a portrait depicting a young boy taken from the world too soon, but also a painting with a continuing vision for that boy's spirit and purpose.*

*As I have worked on Nathan's canvas, I have smiled back at his beaming angelic face many a day, and can only hope now that this portrait will provide all who gaze upon it with a chance to smile back, remember Nathan's joy, and celebrate all of the happiness he willingly gave to others.*

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*Portrait of Nathan O'Brien*

*Life-size, 30 x 24 inches*

*Oil on Italian linen*

*2014*



*In the spirit of a fresh start.....*



*We both thank everyone for such generous support in purchasing beautiful Carolina Magnolia Notecard sets as we continue to donate part of the proceeds from each box to Charlotte's "Housing First" initiative ~ a small way we are trying to assist with housing our chronically homeless.*

*So many meaningful ways to help:*

[www.urbanministrycenter.org](http://www.urbanministrycenter.org)  
[www.housingfirstcharmeck.org](http://www.housingfirstcharmeck.org)

*We have received our second printing of Magnolia notecards, gift boxed and ready for all occasions!*

*Please see the pdf attached for details and simply email or call the office if you would like to place an order:*

*[jseibelswalker@hotmail.com](mailto:jseibelswalker@hotmail.com)  
704 338 9613*





## *2015 Schedule*

*2015 Lucca studio dates are now set ~  
we will be working out of our Italian  
home/studio late summer through late fall  
once again this year:*

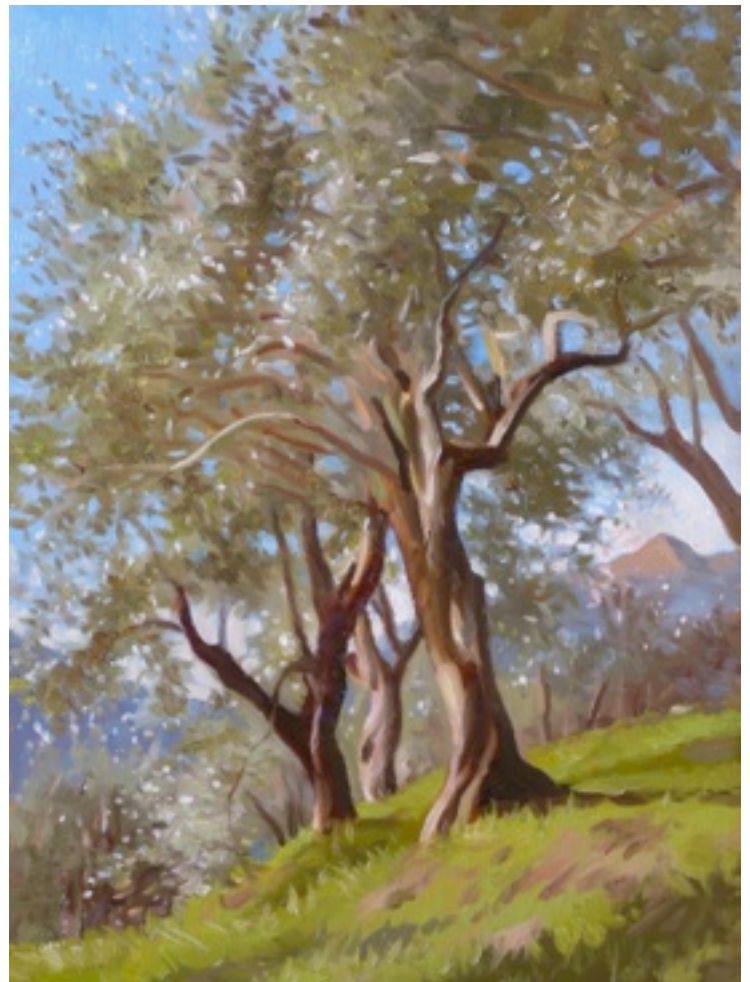
*August 24 - November 24, 2015  
Lucca, Italy*

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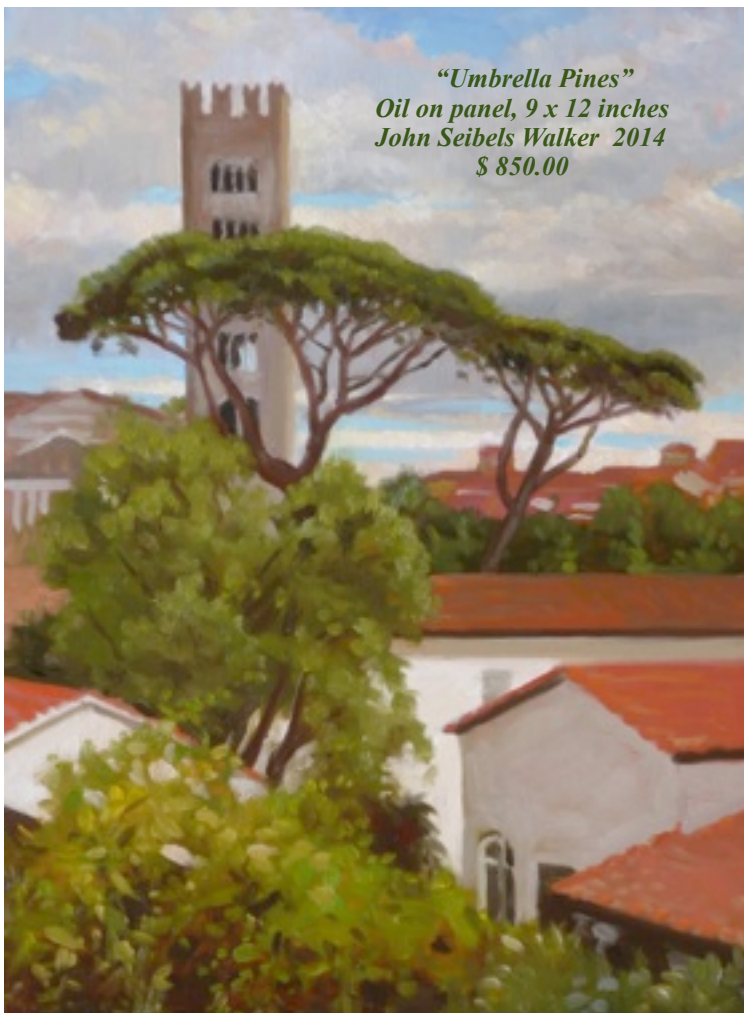
*Portraiture in the Grand Manner:*

*Currently scheduling new portrait sittings  
beginning December of 2015 and  
completions for summer of 2016*

*jseibelswalker@hotmail.com*



*Above: "Old Friends"  
Hillside Olives  
Oil on panel, 9 x 12 inches  
John Seibels Walker 2014  
~SOLD~*



*"Umbrella Pines"  
Oil on panel, 9 x 12 inches  
John Seibels Walker 2014  
\$ 850.00*

*Several charming 9 x 12 plein air landscape  
studies are still available for purchase from  
the 2014 Lucca season, all in handcrafted  
Italian frames and specially priced at  
\$850.00!*

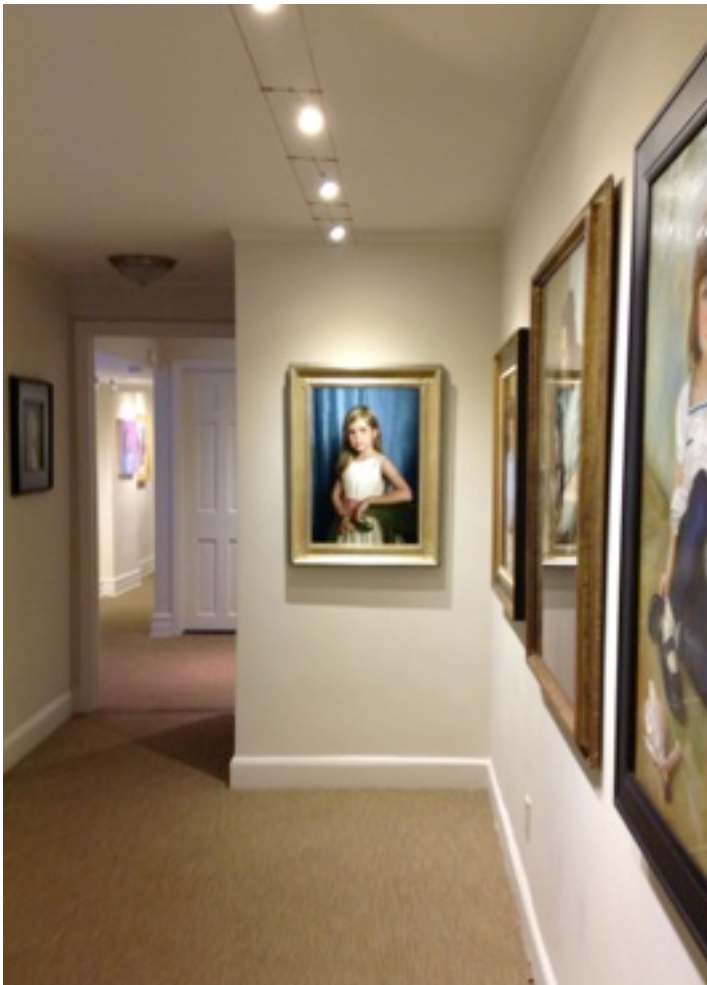
*Click on the link below to view our  
photostream on this series of paintings ~  
clicking on any of the landscapes will then  
allow you to view a full image of each framed  
painting in slideshow mode.*

[https://www.icloud.com/photostream/  
#A253qWtHm4lp7](https://www.icloud.com/photostream/#A253qWtHm4lp7)

# *Congratulations Portraits, Inc. on the new NYC Gallery!*

*John is just back from the NYC gallery where his portrait of young Annabelle is hanging in this special show ~ opening tonight!*

*The show will be up through May 23rd, so stop by if you are visiting NYC or the area.  
(The gallery is located just off of 5th Avenue  
near the Guggenheim and it is an easy walk up from the Met)*



*Ars longa, vita brevis!*

*k & j ~  
Portraiture in the Grand Manner  
[www.johnseibelswalker.com](http://www.johnseibelswalker.com)  
Charlotte/Lucca*

## For Immediate Release:

*Portraits, Inc. stages an exhibition of children's portraits in their new gallery location at 6 East 92<sup>nd</sup> St., between 5<sup>th</sup> and Madison Avenues*

### **Our Great Hope: Contemporary Children's Portraits**

Apr. 9 - May 23, 2015

*Since 1942, Portraits, Inc. has been the trusted source for commissioning fine art portraiture. Our represented artists are supported by a professional team of art consultants and administrative associates and range from mid-career masters to newly emerging practitioners. While clearly privileging figurative techniques aimed at capturing the likeness and spirit of a sitter, said artists approach portraiture and picture making with distinct and varied interpretations ---employing emblematic styles ranging from traditional realism to more contemporary expressions.*

Concurrent with the opening of our new gallery location at **6 East 92<sup>nd</sup> St., #1**, Portraits, Inc. is pleased to announce a special exhibition titled **"Our Great Hope: Contemporary Children's Portraits"**.

The exhibition, comprising over 30 individual works representative of children at varying ages, opens on Thurs., April 9, 2015 and will be on view through Sat., May 23rd. Ideally located on the garden level of a stately townhouse off Museum Mile, our new exhibition space offers an elegant setting designed to inspire a meditative and intimate viewing of contemporary portraiture and allied figurative works---surely a welcome alternative to the crowding, scale and spectacle prevalent in many contemporary art venues.

Perhaps the taste for narrative portraiture and figurative art (as indicated by the upcoming Met exhibition of John Singer Sargent's personal portraits) and genteel rather than grandiose viewing spaces has returned. The generous support and positive response to our gallery opening seems to point in that direction and if so, 6 East 92<sup>nd</sup> St. will become a cherished stop on the New York City gallery circuit.

To obtain more information about Portraits, Inc. and our New York City gallery please visit [www.portraitsinc.com](http://www.portraitsinc.com) or contact Michael Gormley, gallery curator, by email at [michael@portraitsinc.com](mailto:michael@portraitsinc.com) or by calling (212) 258 2233.