



About the Artist

The self-taught Monégasque artist **CLAUDE GAUTHIER** was born in 1939 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. At age 18, he sets out to restore frescoes in some of Monaco's most luxurious residences, drawing and painting on his spare time.

In 1962, he meets Josette Tomatis and they marry the following year - settling in the Principality of Monaco in 1965 when Claude joins the Monaco Police Department. Josette's continued encouragement of his passion for art results in a successful first solo exhibition in 1968 in Monaco, which then leads to exhibits in France and abroad (Geneva, New York, Rome) and countless artistic awards.

Starting in the 70s, he becomes more involved in the life of his adopted country. Her Serene Highness Princess Grace honors him in 1972 by inaugurating his solo exhibit - members of the Princely Family will give him their patronage at subsequent showings - in Monaco, which is now one of his subjects of predilection.

Among his many Monaco-inspired and -themed projects are greeting cards and postcards, stamps and artwork for the Police Department. His art is displayed at each Monégasque milestone: the 25th anniversary of Prince Rainier's reign in 1974, the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi dynasty in 1997, the 150th anniversary of Prince Albert 1st in 1998, Prince Rainier's Jubilee in 1999, etc.

Since retiring from the Police Force in 1992, he has devoted his time to painting, enriching his palette with exotic travels. In 1999, Claude and Josette were granted the Monégasque citizenship.

Museums: Anatole Jakovsky International Naïf Art Museum (Nice, France), Isle de France Museum (Vicq, France), For Klein Museum (Denmark) and Tlaxcala Museum (Mexico).

Select exhibitions: *Sacred Art*, Imago 2004, Monaco - *Circus World in Monaco*, Quai des Artistes Monaco (2004) - *A Look Back at 45 Years of Paintings*, AML Monaco (2003) - *The Big Top*, Anatole Jakovsky International Naïf Art Museum, Nice (2001) - Boca Raton Museum of Art (2001) - Puerto Rico Museo de Arte (2001) - *Circus*, AML Monaco (1999) - *Builder Prince*, AML Monaco (1999) - French Cultural Center, Boston (1997) - International Salon of Naive Art, Paris (1990) - International Association of Professional Artists UNESCO, Belgium (1986) and Andorra (1985) - Quebec City Congress Center (1980) - Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival (1977-1979) - Belgrade Museum of Modern Art (1977) - Solo exhibit Michel Ange Gallery Monaco (1974) - Grand Prize of Modern Art in Monaco (1970-1982) - Independents Salon in Paris (1968-1975).

Select awards & distinctions: Gold Medal, European Academy of Arts, Paris (2001) - Chevalier of the Order of Monaco Cultural Merit (1996) - Vermeil Medal of the Arts, Sciences & Letters, Paris (1996) - Louis Amade Special Prize, Paris (1995) - Gold Cross, French Merit and Dedication (1995).

