

**August 1, 2014** *Contact Thomas Deans: 404 814-1811 or*

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***Mark English in Atlanta***

*Images evoking Atlanta feature in landmark exhibition by legendary artist-illustrator Mark English at Thomas Deans Fine Art*

**September 8 – October 4, 2014**

**Opening Reception to celebrate the artist’s 81st birthday:**

**Friday, September 19, 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Thomas Deans Fine Art, 690 Miami Circle, NE, #905, Atlanta, GA 30324**

Thomas Deans Fine Art is proud to present a landmark exhibition featuring the work of legendary fine artist and illustrator Mark English. English is one of the most recognizable, influential, and honored illustrators of the last 50 years. He is also virtually entirely self-taught. Since the 1990s English has concentrated on art created for his own pleasure. His most recent body of work incorporates oil paint and collage in a series of restlessly inventive images of people, animals, and city- and landscapes, some evocative of Atlanta and the Deep South. In showcasing this latest chapter of English’s many-faceted career, the exhibition also celebrates his 81st birthday, which the gallery will mark with a reception for the artist on September 19.

Making art has always been second nature to English. Any online search of Mark English will reveal both his greatness as an illustrator and his remarkable achievements as a fine artist. However, his beginnings weren’t auspicious. As a youth, English picked cotton in his native Texas. “I got out of the cotton fields,” he has said, “by learning to paint signs. I chased rodeos, painting ‘Welcome Rodeo Fans’ signs on store windows…I had nowhere to go but up.” After a stint in the army, he eventually attended Art Center College in Los Angeles, where he earned a degree in advertising. He worked for several years as an art director in Detroit, during which time he decided to become an illustrator. A move to Connecticut in 1964 marked the beginning of his meteoric rise. He quickly became the most sought-after and one of the most imitated illustrators of his time. His work for blue chip clients included Ford, General Motors, General Electric, Eddie Bauer, RCA, and Bantam Books. His Illustrations frequently appeared in and on the covers of magazines such as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *McCall’s,* and *Redbook.* He created album illustrations for *Tommy,* by The Who, and for John Denver, with who became a friend. He also produced important work for the US Parks Service and US Post Office.

English has won many coveted awards and has joined such luminaries as Maxfield Parrish and N.C Wyeth in the Illustrators Hall of Fame. In 2001 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Academy of Art University, San Francisco.

Twenty years ago, English further challenged himself by retiring from illustration to concentrate almost exclusively on his gallery paintings, which have enjoyed tremendous success. “I do gallery paintings because I enjoy pursuing a train of thought through a series of paintings, or simply doing a painting for myself,” he has said.

English says he developed his painting technique by studying the work of the Post-Impressionist painters. He employs a rich blend of colors, textures, geometric shapes, and complex patterning, not so much delineating his subjects as “building” them. Their effect is to conjure memories--of scenes and experiences and people and places remembered fondly, though not specifically—and to encourage an emotional journey into personal recollection. Of his unique visual sensibility, English has said: “The words technique and style are often confused. My technique may be copied, but the style is something that cannot be imitated. That’s what separates [me] from the copiers.”

As an artist of great natural ability and fluency, English has noted wryly, “…in illustration the good guys generally win, which is not always true in the gallery business. There are very successful, not very competent, painters and very unsuccessful, competent painters out there – more so than in the illustration business.”

Mark English’s work can be seen in collections throughout the world. It will be on display at Thomas Deans Fine Art, September 8 through October 4, 2014.

For more information, contact the gallery, 404 814-1811.

**Website:** [**www.thomasdeansfineart.com**](http://www.thomasdeansfineart.com)

**Thomas A. Deans** is the founder (1983) and president of Thomas Deans Fine Art., a gallery based in Atlanta, Georgia since 2000, specializing in both historic and contemporary art. Mr. Deans was also co-founder of The Gallery Downstairs, London (1985-1997).

Mr. Deans has written and lectured extensively about the fine and performing arts, with projects for PBS, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, New York City Center, Cleveland, San Jose, Richmond, and Sacramento ballets, the Cummer Museum and Gardens, the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (Florida), the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, the Albany (Georgia) Museum of Art, the Florida Institute for Art Education, and Women’s Art Journal, among others. He has written chapters on British paintings/artists for *The Catalogue of the Collection, St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts* (1994) and *Women Artists*, by Margaret Barlow (1999). He is on the Dean’s Advisory Board for the college of fine art, drama, dance, and design at Florida State University.