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C H A R L E S L E E



"Once, while listening to my mother play the violin, I dreamt of becoming a Musician, like her. Since I was young there has always been art and music in my home and in my life because my wife is also a painter and my daughter a cellist. Even today when I am painting I always listen to music and the rhythm and melody come through in the finished work."

Charles Lee, working under the artist name "Charles" began showing an affinity for art in 1955 at the young age of seven. Encouraged by his mother, he demonstrated an adept skill in drawing and watercolor and decided to focus on art in High School in his hometown of Seoul, Korea. It was at this school that Charles received his first honor, a gold medal in international painting competition. Majoring in art in college, Charles had his first one-man-show at the age of 23 and later began exhibiting in Hong Kong and Tokyo. In the late 1970's and 80's, Charles Lee taught and exhibited his work extensively in Paris, Sidney and throughout Asia.

In the early 1990's, collectors in the United States were introduced to Charles when he moved to Florida to make his new home. Attending art fairs and offering paintings to a few gallery owners was the beginning of a new career. These paintings quickly became sought after by regional galleries and were added to many private and corporate collections from Miami and Orlando to Atlanta and New York.

His most recent compositions include paintings with a raised, richly textured finish that utilizes a mixed media format. They are a compelling combination of both traditional and contemporary elements. Drawing from his knowledge of great masters like Cezanne and Van Gogh, Charles shows great attention to detail in the "human element", creating his own theater of characters. Embracing a bright and eye-catching palette, which sometimes includes gold foil, he demonstrates his keen sense of color, and a high energy level. In spite of such vibrant imagery, Charles' subjects are poised and observant leaving the viewer with a sense of jubilation and buoyancy.

