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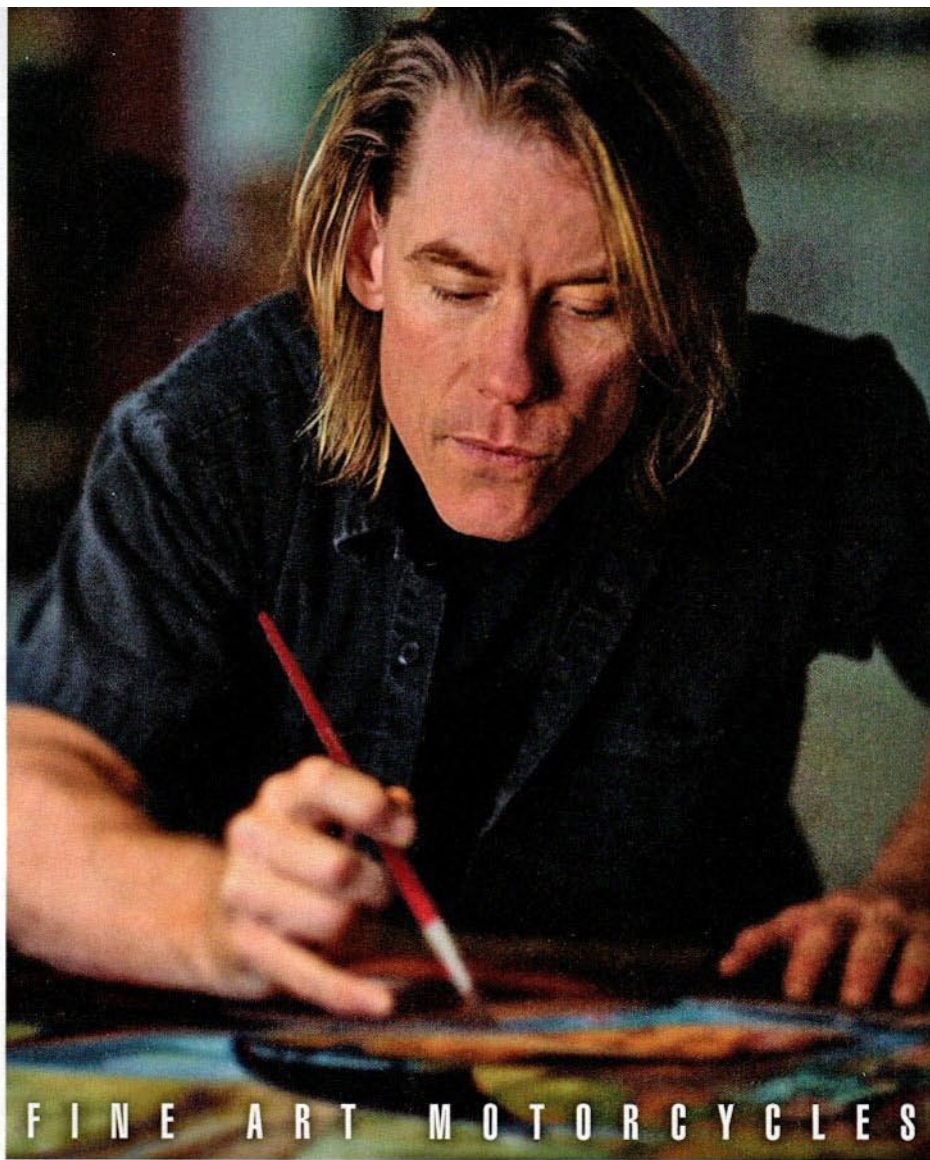
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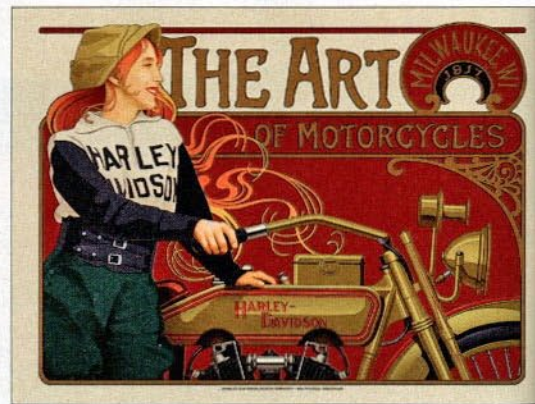


FINE ART MOTORCYCLES

coming up with stuff that might have been done back then, and putting it into a design," he explains. "But ultimately, you become stagnant in creating your designs, doing the same thing over and over."

Danial James Stuckenschneider (he jokes that he dropped the last name somewhere along the way because it's just too hard to sign) is one of those fortunate people who know from an early age what they want to do. Through perseverance and hard work, he has been able to do what he truly loves as a career. "I told my mom and dad in first grade that I was going to be an artist," he says. "Art is all I've ever done."

Growing up in Iowa, Danial started out drawing mostly animals; motorcycles would have to wait a



Danial James

You may own some art by Danial James and not even know it. If you have a Harley-Davidson T-shirt, for instance, chances are it's got one of his designs on it. He says "In the 17 years that I worked with Harley-Davidson, I created over 600 designs for them. It's fun seeing many of my old designs on thousands of T-shirts at the rallies."

Danial has also created T-shirt and poster designs for companies like Triumph and Indian Motorcycles, Chevy, and Ford. He says the challenge in designing T-shirts is finding out what sells. "I have found that old

school bikers are set in their ways as far as things they like to see in a design," he says, "like flames, eagles, wolves, pin-up girls, or skulls sell great, and deviating from that would cause a design not to sell. When you do rallies, you need to tie the location into the design. For instance, you would tie Devils Tower or Mt. Rushmore into the Sturgis designs."

Danial's also designed a vintage series of posters for Harley-Davidson, such as *Shifting into Popularity or Outdoors Greatest Sport*, and *The Art of the Motorcycle*. "I really enjoy digging into the history of a subject,

while. He got into scholastics in the ninth grade and won the only full-ride scholarship to the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design offered to a High School Senior in the U.S., graduating with an Illustration Degree in 1987.

He later joined, and became business partners with, David Uhl for 25 years until he branched off to pursue his own fine art career in 2015. Danial has an extensive background in technical illustrations, and you can see that in his paintings. "I was a product illustrator out of college and worked with Bosch Automotive doing cutaways of all their products, their starters, spark plugs, batteries, and so on," he says. "It was engineered drawing for a transparent 3D image so you could see inside and through all the layers of Bosch products."

For the past five years, Danial's main



focus has been on fine art, creating his own style and concentrating exclusively on oil painting. Not only does he get to paint what he wants, but he also gets to be creative in his designs for clients. "It keeps me very busy," he says.

Danial particularly enjoys the

vintage, impressionistic look. "The pin-up girls like the *Strapper Flapper*, *Lawful Beauty*, or the *Strap Tank Beauty* all have more of that abstract background, whereas *The Perfect Day* and *Taking a Moment* are more in the impressionistic style," he says. "But I'm starting to do more of what I would

call abstract realism, with backgrounds that have that abstract block-of-colors look."

Whether he's doing paintings of motorcycles, people, or just about any other subject matter, one of the hardest things for most artists to paint accurately are faces, he says. "You want



Taking A Moment



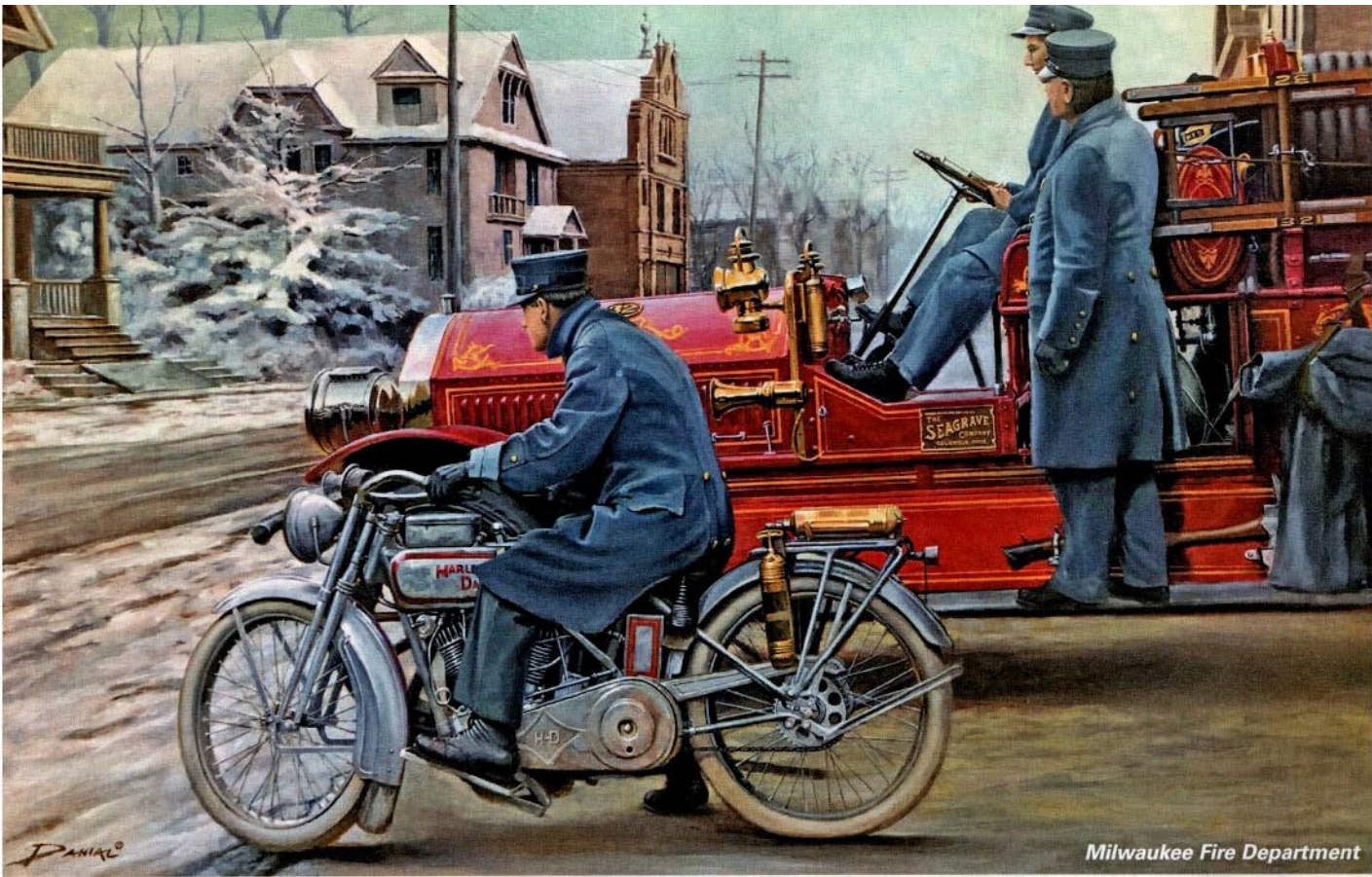
Scarlet Lady



Strapper Flapper



Dakota Glory



Milwaukee Fire Department



The Chase



The Perfect Day

your faces to have a realistic look. The skin tones and lighting are so important.”

Animals are also something Danial really got into painting again. The first one was a wolf and raven piece, based on a dream he had three nights in a row a couple of years ago. “I kept dreaming about this wolf and raven,” Danial explains, “and on the morning after the third night, my sister called me and told me that our grandma died. That same day I did a painting titled *Raven’s Moon* because I thought there was some meaning there; maybe me being the lone wolf and my grandma being the raven looking out for me.”

His art can frequently be seen at various fine art fairs. Just recently, he had a very successful show at the Waterfront Art and Wine Festival in Scottsdale, Arizona, and looks forward to being at other ones this year. “I love meeting people and talking about art. Not just my art, but art in general,” he says. “Some of my favorite artists who have inspired me were Mucha, Norman Rockwell, and David Mann.”

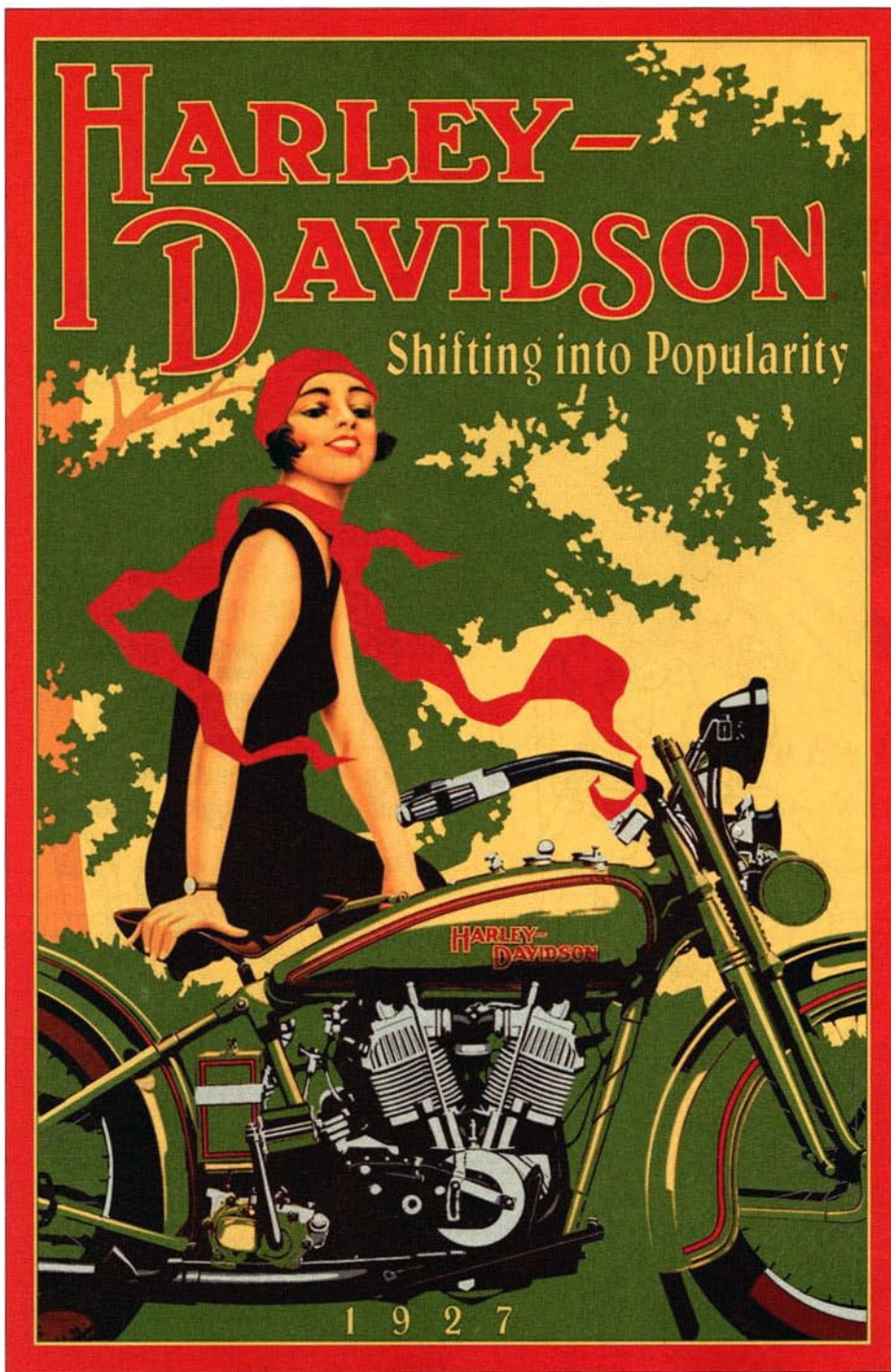
Occasionally, he’ll add an airbrush to his tool box. “I first picked up the airbrush during high school,” Danial says, “and I even taught airbrushing classes. I’ve done some nose art on an operating airplane, and the guy’s wife also commissioned me to do a leather jacket to match it for him. It was really cool because I hadn’t used the airbrush in about four years before that.”

A recent series of paintings celebrates a culture having little to do with Danial’s Midwestern roots. The large paintings show how the bootleggers started NASCAR. “I just completed the third painting of the series of five. The originals are already sold before they’re painted. My client that purchased them has a museum called Legends Museum in Springville, Utah. He has a phenomenal collection of motorcycles and is purchasing a 1940 Ford Coupe Deluxe to display in the Museum along with my Bootlegger Series paintings. That was the number one moonshine-running car back then.”

Danial recently finished another one of his Strap Tank pin-ups for the Strap



Raven's Moon



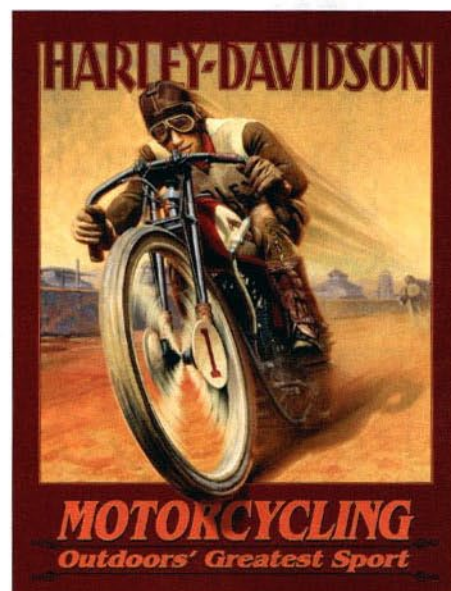
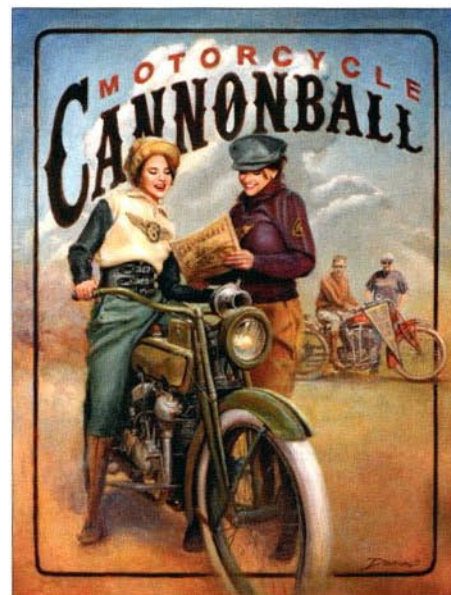
Tank Brewery, which is located next to the Legends Museum. Ultimately, there will be several Strap Tank Breweries at different locations, and his artwork will be displayed in all of them. "The newest pin-up has a western barmaid theme," Danial says, "and the pin-up designs will also be used for Strap Tank Brewery's signs and T-shirt designs."

Always busy on several projects at once, Danial also just completed what

he calls one of the most challenging pieces he's ever done. It was taken from a black and white glass plate negative from 1924. "A lot of time went into colorizing and bringing the painting to life," he says. "I'm really excited about that one."

Danial's art can frequently be seen at various fine art fairs, motorcycle and car rallies, and you can check it out at danialjamesfineart.com.

—Red Baron



Images: Danial James

danialjamesfineart.com

In Deadwood, SD check out Jacobs Gallery to see more of Danial's work