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3S Art Newsletter

October 2024

We just came home from a [visit to Nashville, Tennessee, the home of Country Music](#). Although I travelled there on business over 25 years ago, I can honestly say I did not recognize the city at all - it has changed so much. Happily, the changes are for the better!

One of the main attractions in Nashville is the Country Music Hall of Fame, a huge, modern and stunning building. Along with all the music artifacts, there is an outstanding mural that I'd like to introduce you to in this newsletter.

The Sources of Country Music

In 1973, the [Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum](#) commissioned American master painter Thomas Hart Benton to create The Sources of Country Music, a six-by-ten-foot mural depicting musical and cultural contributors to the country music tradition.

Before beginning to paint on canvas, Benton drew preliminary sketches and built a working model out of plasticine. Benton used these sketches to develop his overall composition and to establish specific details and placement of his figures.

I always find it interesting how an artist goes about drawing their preliminary sketches and bringing that sketch to life in the finished painting. It was fantastic to see Benton's original sketches and finished painting displayed in the Country Music Hall of Fam

Benton followed this method with all of his paintings but usually threw away his studies or gave them to visitors to his studio. Unfortunately, he suffered a heart attack during the final stages of work on The Sources of Country Music and he had not signed the work when he died in January, 1975. Most of his studies were preserved and The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum has a collection of more than fifty pieces associated with the mural.

Some of his early sketches are the final painting are displayed below.

[IMG 2689](#)

[IMG 2690](#)

[IMG 2685](#)

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Thomas Hart Benton

American painter

Overview

Artworks



[Click to learn about the artist](#)

American Artist Thomas Hart Benton. See video history of this famous American artist.



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Click here to see my video of my trip to Nashville. If you are interested in making these type of videos, send me an email.



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