

Harry Carmean (born Anthony, Kansas 1922) is an artist known for his figurative paintings based on the work of the old masters. The ideas of the Renaissance, Baroque, Mannerist and Impressionist art can all be seen in his work to varying degrees. He also practices a form of drawing known as “draughtsmanship” in which specific art ideas are consistently applied throughout a drawing.

Carmean was first a singer before becoming an artist. After serving in WWII he quit singing and began studying art at L'Ecole de Beaux Arts in France and later at Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. It was there that he met the painter Lorser Feitelson who strongly influenced Carmean's work. In 1952 Carmean became an instructor at Art Center College of Design and taught literally thousands of students over the course of 43 years.

In the 1960's he began a series of paintings that were done in a simple manner with muted colors and which showed the influence of the Renaissance and Baroque art. It was at this time that Carmean came into his own as a painter and his compositions became more sophisticated and complex. In the 1960's Carmean also was regularly featured on Feitelson's award winning television show "Feitelson on Art."

Carmean went on to explore new and different visual approaches, for example, in the 1980's he began a series of paintings which were a pure color experience with a minimal use of form. In the 1990's a series of paintings was begun depicting acrobats in which the focus was on the use of whites. While Carmean is best known for his paintings, he has also created a substantial number of life drawings, prints and wax sculptures over the course of his long career. After retiring from Art Center in 1996 Carmean moved to Santa Barbara where he continues to draw and paint.

