

FRAMED!

A portrait by artist Win Zibeon is the next best thing to having the weapon itself mounted on your wall

By Brad Pearson



PHOTOS BY WIN ZIBEON

Award-winning artist Win Zibeon paints portraits. But don't expect to see some glowering family patriarch staring at you from a canvas if you wander into a Zibeon show. Instead, you'll be looking at a rifle, handgun, bayonet, or Samurai sword so realistically rendered in the trompe l'oeil style that you could swear the artist had hung a real weapon in front of a solid white background. (We had two of his paintings — one of a Winchester 63 .22 varmint gun and the other of a U.S. Army Standard issue M1 — on display at *Heartland USA's* editorial offices a while back, and they stopped passersby in their tracks.)

Win recalls a time when several Catholic nuns (a group not, as a rule, known to be fans of weaponry) stopped by a gallery that was featuring his paintings. He watched with interest as they circulated around the room, pausing to study each of his works. As they left, one of the nuns

approached the artist and commented that his finely detailed paintings had given the sisters a new respect for the beauty of well-crafted firearms. High praise, indeed.

Looking for a reason to spend the \$2,000 to \$5,000 to have Zibeon paint your favorite weapon's portrait? Here are a couple of good excuses: Are you a weapons collector who would like to display your treasures in public, but find yourself reluctant to do so because of safety concerns, or for fear of theft? A Zibeon painting allows the original to remain under lock and key, while giving the prize collectible the exposure it deserves.

Or, let's say your uncle or grandfather passes away without making it clear whether you or your brother should inherit the treasured, battle-scarred Winchester he hunted with for decades. A Zibeon portrait of that old lever-action — showing every scratch and detail, down to the lines in the grain of the well-oiled stock — might go a long way towards helping resolve the problem.

In any case, a Zibeon portrait is guaranteed to turn heads. A great gift, it is sure to give its owner (and his heirs) years of viewing pleasure. 🇺🇸

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