

Daniel A. Moore



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The eye of an eagle. The heart of a poet. The art of Daniel A. Moore. The man has a remarkable ability, a touch that reaches the essence of the extreme moment of challenge...

Sports Announcer, Keith Jackson—From *Crimson & White and Other Colors*

When the University of Kentucky approached acclaimed artist Daniel A. Moore to commemorate its 1996 NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship, the artist envisioned a painting that went far deeper. He explains, "I wanted to portray the University's rich basketball heritage by paying homage to all six of its national championships—from 1948 through 1996. I knew to accomplish this enormous undertaking it would be vital to include the players, coaches, and great traditions which were involved in those championship years, as well as some of the other great players who helped to establish or enhance the Wildcats' legacy. If I could successfully compose all of this on canvas, I knew I would be capturing the very essence of UK's heart and soul."

Truly for the artist, "Wildcat Legacy" was a labor of love. It was "labor" in that it involved over 1,000 hours of painstaking detail. It was of "love" in that Daniel had grown up on "all things Kentucky," with both of his parents being UK graduates. His mother, Cary, was an art major at UK. His father, Gus, majored in engineering but had the distinct honor of trying out for the Cats under Coach Adolph Rupp. Although he did not make the final cut, Gus remained an avid true "Blue" fan until the day he died. Daniel's great grandfather, Adolph Bablitz, played football for the Wildcats in the 1930's. His aunt's brother, Dwight Price, played on Kentucky's 1951 National Championship team with C.M. Newton. These deep Kentucky roots nourished a respect and admiration in the artist's heart for the Wildcats, and from which emanated the masterwork, *Wildcat Legacy*.

The historic hiring of John Calipari as Head Coach for the Kentucky Wildcats has given the artist good reason for remastering his artwork. "Since I painted *Wildcat Legacy* in 1996, UK has added another National Championship to its legacy. And, UK now makes history with this monumental hiring—marking the beginning of a new era in Kentucky Basketball. I have included these significant historical milestones in my new artwork, *Restoring the Legacy*."

In 2005, Daniel A. Moore received the Sport Artist of the Year Award from the United States Sports Academy. Since 1985 the annual award has been presented to an artist, selected from a list of international nominees, who captures the spirit and life of sport. ([CLICK FOR MORE ON AWARD](#))

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