

Art That Sings, Dances, and Flies

Brian Sauriol, and The Millennium Falcon™

Brian Sauriol is a musician.

He doesn't play. His art is his music. He composes and performs symphonies in paint.

"Art is melodic," he says. "I see music, and I hear art. When it's right, art sings and dances."

This attitude is evident when you meet him. His movement is fluid, his words measured and rhythmic. He describes his art in musical terms -- melody, harmony, counterpoint. *"I left that panel closed to maintain the flow from the left," he explains. "I brought this line down to complement and support the structure that runs through the center."*

It comes as no surprise that he listens to music -- jazz and alternative, primarily -- as he works. *"Music is emotional, so it helps bring out the emotion in my art. All art -- whether it's a product illustration, or pure imagination -- must be emotional."*

Brian's cutaway poster of the *Millennium Falcon*, Han Solo's ship from *Star Wars*™, was an opportunity to combine two passions -- art and science fiction. Like a true fanatic, he does not bother to couch this passion in subtle terms. *"I'm a science fiction nut," he says. "I love it."*

Back in the sixties, he logged countless star hours with Captain Kirk on the *U.S.S. Enterprise*™. Inevitably, he found himself drawn to the spaceports and cantinas where other science fiction nuts gather. They aren't hard to spot. They argue imperial politics and question whether a "no 'droids" policy constitutes discrimination. They speak, in whispered, respectful tones, the names of the

exalted -- George Lucas, Gene Roddenberry, Asimov, Heinlein, Ellison. The Hugo and the Nebula are their Holy Grails. If you understand, join in, and ignore the puzzled stares of the uninitiated -- they just don't understand.

Brian is founder of the elegantly named "Star Wars Crazy Persons Society." Like many great science fiction undertakings, it came about as the accidental meeting of some slightly bent minds.

"I invented the term during an argument," he says. "We couldn't agree on where the Millennium Falcon's upper hatch -- the one used to rescue Luke from Bespin in 'Empire' -- was located. One guy produced a source that showed it on the starboard side. I was sure that it was on the port side. I plugged in the tapes and sketched out the ship's layout."

"They gave in, and I told them -- 'don't mess with a Star Wars Crazy Person.'"

The club itself, however, was formed some time later.

"It was while we were doing the poster. On my notes and questions to Julie Targos, President of Nonpareil Communications, Inc., I said I was an SWCP. She borrowed the term, and named me as founder of the society, in my bio. I was surprised when I saw it -- WHAT society? Jim Somers, our writer, decided he was an SWCP, too, and became an associate member. So the SWCP Society was born, with Jim as President."

"This does not, however, put Jim in charge."

"It's like those clubs we formed as kids. Jim is President."

Detail of the front end, including forward-mounted missiles. In the film, these missiles were used only once -- to destroy the 'Death Star' reactor in 'Return of the Jedi'.

The outer hull is accurate to the last detail -- not only is the red and grey primer placed as it appeared in the films, but even blast marks, scratches and paint chips are accurate as portrayed in the *Star Wars* films.

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26. (Photo FF - Brian Sauriol)

A proud, but weary artist displays his art. After some 375 total hours of work, both the weariness and the pride are hard-earned. (You thought we were joking about Brian walking into walls?! Notice his battle scars from trying to navigate in the real world after a 10-hour session with a magnifying glass.)

Photography by 'Skip' Munson ("a photographer of enormous skill and patience" who is also a teacher)

©Munson Studios
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**What a GREAT address for a photographer!

To inquire about the *Millennium Falcon* cut-away poster by Brian Sauriol, or to register your membership in the SWCP Society,

contact:
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