

## Artist Statement

**Andy Sklar** was born and raised in Highland Park, Illinois, a suburb north of Chicago. Frequent excursions to the city's Field Museum with its eye-popping dioramas and annual viewings of the Wizard of Oz fueled his young imagination.

On childhood visits to his grandparents in Sarasota, Florida, Andy found inspiration in the vibrant nature and wildlife of the gulf coast and the opulent venetian-styled mansions of John and Mable Ringling. But it was a trip to the recently opened Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom that made the biggest impression on Andy, one that would color the path of his career.

A graduate of the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, Andy began his first job as a concept designer at Walt Disney Imagineering. His early years at the Magic Kingdom have led him to the unique opportunity to reimagine the amusement park experience all over the world from Japan, China, Korea and Dubai.

As an art director and designer he has informed and created a multitude of theme park projects internationally, from Bollywood Parks & Resorts, in Dubai, to most recently the Raptor Encounter at Jurassic World with Universal Studios Hollywood. His work can be found in children's publishing with *Penguin Young Readers Group NY,NY* And his concept designs were featured inside select editions of *The Art of Walt Disney Imagineering- Hyperion Publishing*

Andy is thrilled to be a part of the juried selection for this years Made In California exhibition at Brea Gallery.

Andy Lives in Los Angeles

## About the Work

Bright Horizon depicts a cinematic close up of a weary traveler, who has just caught sight of the horizon. In this case the horizon is a metaphor. Does the traveler spot land, a vision of a lost love, or a promise for a better tomorrow?

"Perhaps the viewer might find his or her own bright horizon metaphor to ruminate on while observing. A horizon to feel determined toward and and inspired by.

Andy Sklar