



James Thistlethwaite

“The Water Runs Through,” mural

Who: British-born James Thistlethwaite now calls Laguna Beach home. He earned his BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design and his MFA in painting from Laguna College of Art and Design. His early art emphasized figurative drawing; Thistlethwaite was very fortunate to encounter studio assistant positions and have as mentors acclaimed figurative artists like Kent Twitchell, Kehinde Wiley, Lucy Sparrow and street artist Ben Eine, all of whom have had a profound influence on the direction of his art and career path.

What: Thistlethwaite’s most recent and largest feat to date is his 28’ x 32’ hand-drawn charcoal mural that is on display just off 845 Laguna Canyon Road, a short distance up the road from the Festival of the Arts. Thistlethwaite’s mural stands as the largest hand-drawn

charcoal mural in the United States (and is second in the world only by a few square feet to one in Colombia.) The impressive mural is the result of a fine collaboration among Laguna Creative Ventures, Seven Degrees, Torrey Cook and Ben Rubin.

How: Hours upon hours of drawing, coupled with a bit of insight shared by veteran Los Angeles muralist Kent Twitchell.

Hopes: “There is a lot more I would love to accomplish. But right now the goal is to keep going bigger and keep getting better. I am never really satisfied with my work and I want to keep improving my craft. I am currently pursuing a few different opportunities that will allow me to create a mural vastly larger than the one in Laguna.” **As told to Jeannie Denholm**



James Thistlethwaite working on “The Water Runs Through,” in his studio.

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