

About the Cover Art



Following in the footsteps of his father—an accomplished and well-known artist in the upper Midwest—Gary R. Wedin is an accomplished artist in his own right. A gold-medal winner, Wedin was one of 130 artists invited to display their work and participate in the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF). Wedin received his medal in the Painting on Canvas category of the visual arts competition for his painting *Concerto*, featured on this issue’s cover.

Concerto, an experiment in a monochromatic color palette, was inspired by Marcel Duchamp’s painting *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2*. “One evening, I was scanning through a book on modern cubist art and saw a painting done in a single color palette—primarily yellow ochre, using several gradations and sienna and umber toning.” Wedin liked this concept and, in describing his inspiration for *Concerto*, explained, “I thought I would give this concept a try.”

Preferring to show his work in only one or two shows every couple of years, Wedin sees displaying his work at the NVCAF as a prestigious honor. “Winning this award has given me a deep sense of personal pride. It’s a feeling that, ‘Wow, somebody else really cares what I do!’ Creation is such a personal thing, to be recognized by the public or colleagues really feels fantastic,” said Wedin.

A Vietnam era veteran who served in the U.S. Army between 1963 and 1970, Wedin is extremely proud of his military experience. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He completed his military occupation specialty training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and a final tour of duty at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where he served with the 4th Battalion, 33rd Armor, 3rd Armored Division as a Tank Commander and Tank Platoon Sergeant.

After his discharge from the military, Wedin took up in his father’s trade as a commercial insulator of pipes, boilers, ducts, chillers, and other components of mechanical systems. Wedin has worked for forty years in the trade. He was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has lived in Plymouth since 1990.

