U.S. STAMPS
of Chris Calle

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Christopher Calle became interested in art at a very early age. He often went with his father, artist and stamp designer Paul Calle, to observe and sketch nature. He soon enrolled in art classes at a local nature center where he and his brother were volunteers. Chris was soon drawing and painting the animals he observed and anything he could imagine. His interest in stamps began in 1969, when Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon. It was a pivotal event for all of America, but — for an eight-year-old boy who knew the Apollo XI astronauts also carried the die that would be used to print his father’s First Man on the Moon stamp — it was amazing.

The landing made an indelible mark on his life and future career. Chris began collecting First Day Covers of that 10-cent air mail issue, which is still his major collecting interest. His first FDC cachet drawing is from 1969 and depicts Armstrong and Aldrin on the Moon. His interest in art continued in college, where he earned a BFA at the University of Michigan School of Fine Art in 1983, majoring in illustration.

One of his first professional assignments was the Harry S. Truman stamp in the Great Americans series. In the next 12 years, Chris designed over 30 U.S. stamps, and hundreds more for entities as diverse as Sweden, Marshall Islands, and the United Nations. And over nearly two decades, Chris produced more than 1,000 Fleetwood FDC cachet paintings. Perhaps most gratifying for Chris was designing the 1989 $2.40 Priority Mail 20th Anniversary Moon Landing stamp, and then jointly designing two stamps in 1994 for the 25th Anniversary of the Moon Landing with his father.

A stamp artist’s work may be the most reproduced artwork in the world. More than 150 million 1969 First Man on the Moon air mail stamps were printed, and there were half a billion stamps printed with the design of Chris’s 10-cent Eagle and Shield definitives in 1991-93.

Chris has generously donated cachets to the American Philatelic Society for the last several years, and in 2006 started his own line of FDCs as a cachetmaker. Chris has introduced his seven-year-old son Ian to the fun of philately and Ian has been busy following in the footsteps of father Chris and grandfather Paul in designing First Day Cover cachets.

Paul remains a key source of inspiration and knowledge, and father and son share a studio in Connecticut. Chris also has followed his father’s path to Western Art, painting and drawing the Mountain Men and Indians who inhabited the vastness of the American West. At StampShow 2008, Marshall Islands is releasing Chris’s latest work — a 16-stamp Portraits of the Wild West pane.

In addition to designing U.S. and foreign stamps and cachets for first-day covers, Chris Calle’s award-winning exhibit "Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Man on the Moon" is always one of the most popular.
Coils, Connections, Connecticut

1991 (10c)
Eagle & Shield
“Bulk Rate USA”

1993 (10c)
Eagle & Shield
“USA Bulk Rate”

1988 8.4c
Wheel Chair 1920s
“Nonprofit”

1988 20.5c
Fire Engine 1900s
“ZIP+4 Presort”

1988 24.1c
Tandem Bicycle 1890s
“ZIP+4”

1988 22c
Connecticut Statehood
Bicentennial

1993 29c + 29c
Recognizing Deafness / American Sign Language
“I Love You” se-tenant issue
More of the Many Faces of Chris Calle

1993 29c
Dean Acheson
Statesman

1994 29c
Edward R. Murrow
Broadcast Journalist

1992 29c
Theodore von Kármán
Aerospace Scientist

1994 29c
Dr. Allison Davis
Social Critic & Educator

1994 29c
George Meany
Labor Leader

1994 29c
Moon Landing
25th Anniversary

1995 32c
Bessie Coleman
Pioneer Aviator
Other Chris Calle Collectibles

Over the past quarter century, Chris Calle has designed more than 30 stamps for the U.S. Postal Service, and hundreds more for stamp-issuing entities as diverse and far-flung as Sweden, the Marshall Islands, and the United Nations. And in the 40 years since 1968, Chris has produced countless cachets for U.S. and foreign First Day Covers, including more than 1,000 paintings for Fleetwood FDC cachets alone.

You can collect Chris Calle’s autograph and add other collectibles, including FDCs and the 2008 Marshall Island Portraits of the Wild West stamps, to this page.
MORE OF THE MANY FACES OF CHRIS CALLE

- 1994 29c  
  Edward R. Murrow  
  Broadcast Journalist

- 1993 29c  
  Dean Acheson  
  Statesman

- 1994 29c  
  George Meany  
  Labor Leader

- 1994 29c  
  Dr. Allison Davis  
  Social Critic & Educator

- 1992 29c  
  Theodore von Kármán  
  Aerospace Scientist

- 1995 32c  
  Bessie Coleman  
  Pioneer Aviator

- 1989 $2.40  
  Moon Landing  
  20th Anniversary

- 1994 $9.95  
  Moon Landing  
  25th Anniversary

Both the 1994 Moon Landing 25th Anniversary stamps were designed jointly by Chris Calle and Paul Calle.
AmeriStamp Expo/Texpex
February 20-22, 2009 — Arlington, Texas

Admission is free to AmeriStamp Expo/Texpex, winter show of the American Philatelic Society, hosted by Texpex and coming to the Arlington Convention Center February 20–22. Whether you’re eight or 80, learn the ins and outs of one of the world’s greatest hobbies. Thousand pages of stamp exhibits will be shown, plus world-class rarities and priceless historical mail. Well over 100 dealers from the U.S. and abroad will have everything you need to pursue the stamp hobby, with helpful seminars and how-to sessions catering to interests of every kind. If you have an old collection, “Stamps in Your Attic” will give free thumbnail evaluations of what you’ve got throughout the show, sponsored by the National Stamp Dealers Association. AmeriStamp Expo 2009/Texpex will be open Friday and Saturday from 10 to 6, and Sunday from 10 to 4.

To learn more, visit www.stamps.org/Ameristamp/intro.htm

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