

## ***Don't Take My Word For It... StarMurals Testimonials - A Ten Year Retrospective***

The following unsolicited testimonial letters and comments, from past and prospective clients, and others, are just a sampling of hundreds, from my first ten years, as the number one night sky muralist on this planet. The common theme, as you can easily see, is that literally everyone that has ever seen, or experienced, my one of a kind dynamic art form, StarMurals...is literally blown away by the magical and powerful effects. *Nothing else on this planet compares.*

The following are presented in random form, covering the entire ten years...most with a few comments, to provide context. They are divided into several categories, beginning with StarMurals large and small scale mural projects...painted live, by hand, one star at a time, in pitch black darkness, on ceilings and walls, in residential and commercial environments, far and wide.

I'll start with one of my favorite commercial projects, all 4 suites of a new state of the art sleep lab, that is part of a large neurology and MRI practice, in Ocala, FL, all with my signature Day & Night Sky ceilings...plus additional StarMurals ceilings in Dr. Kim's private office, a training conference room, and the executive conference room...7 StarMurals in all...*three added on after my arrival.*

***Public response to your sky work in our sleep lab has been overwhelming. I do like the night sky painting. It's so cool. You are welcome to use our sleep lab as your show site if you so desire. Thank you for everything. - Dr. Kim***

***Dr. Kim's Practice Manager, Katrina, wrote: Just wanted to share with you that the grand opening was a success. The individuals that came were astounded at the night vision that you did on the ceilings. They were just awestruck. Thank you again for doing such a fantastic rendering. I had a CEO here that had flown in from Vegas who is looking to set up a diagnostic center which was focused on MRI but after I showed him the sleep lab and gave him the sleep experience he thought it was so wonderful that they are going to consider adding sleep to their facility. Thank you again it was an absolute pleasure meeting you and having the opportunity to enjoy your talent.***

On a great pre-holiday trip to Dallas one year, I created a most unique StarMural, on the most unique ceiling ever...level on the sides then sharply peaking, from about 9 feet to a center point above 14 feet. As always with my work, real depth combined with my illusionary depth, is powerful and dynamic. The client commissioned the work as a holiday gift for his wife.

***Now that we've gotten thru the holiday season and a few other work related items - I wanted to send a special thank you for our StarMural. Cheryl loves it more every day. I did buy it for her, but her reactions are more emphatic now than when she first saw it. Cheryl had a birthday party for me during the Christmas holiday and that was the first showing of the art. The ooo's and ahh's were just a short accolade of comments. Of course you've heard them all before.***

This one was great, and the winner of most StarMurals projects in one home...**12**. I traveled to Canada a couple of years back to paint one large...over 900 square feet...StarMural, on a huge peak style ceiling...very severe pitch...in the fourth floor attic of a new 15,000 square foot palace in the Beverly Hills of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, Lorne Park. The family was so happy with the first StarMural that they just kept on adding on spaces. Following are their comments on their bedroom.

***We are star gazing at the moment, and we are in awe of this "starfabulous" sight - that's another word for your vocabulary. You have skyrocketed our bedroom into another planet and we are lost for words...Thank you for an excellent work of art and may your stars see many skies in the near future.***

***Brian & Lisa - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada***

Here's a great multi-night project, in Hemet, CA, in a very luxurious hillside house, with big views, and big messes...*as it was being remodeled...top to bottom*. The couple were great, in their 70's and 80's, living 2 doors down in another exotic house they owned. They put me up in a nice private casita, on the property I was working on. The room was huge...over 400 square feet, with a very high peaked ceiling. The view from their ceiling to the real night sky thru their big windows was seamless.

***We have finally moved--not completely but we are almost there. We are really enjoying our private sky. Charles is particularly crazy about it. He has his black lights on timers and our galaxy seems to change every night even though we know that it can't possibly do so. I have to wait for him to fall asleep before I can read. I can't tell you how much we are enjoying your artwork. You did a wonderful job and it is something we enjoy every night and will until we head for the big runway.***

***Love, Marion and Charles***

Very recently I was invited back to Dana Point, CA to create a dynamic large StarMural for a previous client. A couple of years back I painted a very dynamic Day & Night Sky ceiling in their very exotic bathroom remodel...*this time it was the master bedroom*. The ceiling was sloping, from 13 feet down to 9 feet...and was painted white t&g knotty pine with 5 large painted beams...two days on a scaffold...*it came out great*. Below are their comments on the previous project.

***Rip I hope all is going well, we love our ceiling in the bathroom, We had a big Christmas party last year for Lois's school and the ceiling was the hit of the party. Our neighbors bring all the friends over just to see it. - Tom & Lois***

Over the years I've maintained contact with several of my clients...and they have generously rewarded me by sending their positive and kind words more than once. Here are three rounds of positive testimonials from a client in Northern California, where I created a nice rectangular SkyLite, over their bed. She is an excellent artist...and, of course, there is nothing better for an artist than to receive the respect of their fellow artists...*a jury of your peers.*

***We just love sleeping under our stars. The other night we were gazing up at the StarMural, talking about what we see in the aliveness of the changing patterns and I was just laughing because it felt like it does when we camp and sleep under the stars, yet we're lying in the comfort of our own bed. After only 4 nights had passed, I asked Eddie if he could even imagine sleeping in our bed without them as it was before Rip worked his magic. He said, "No way. I don't know how I went this long without it. I've always loved sleeping under the stars." Thank you so much for bringing a piece of the glorious, twinkling night sky into our bedroom. I feel comforted back to sleep if I wake up in the night and watch it for just a few minutes. Jewell & Eddie - Petaluma, CA***

***Eddie and I are well. Of course, we gaze up at our stars every night. The night sky never gets old!!!!!! Hopefully we won't either:) Artfully, Jewell***

***We still enjoy surprising our friends with our night sky. We make a big production of taking them in for a surprise, not letting on about what the surprise is.... having them lie on the bed with their eyes closed (no peeking allowed) and after their eyes have adjusted tell them it's OK to open now. Always a WOW!!!!, it looks like it's moving, I just saw a shooting star.....It's so fun. - Jewell***

Likewise, I've received several after project comments, from a client in North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Sharon is a prominent local resident and was remodeling her home to suit her interests, following the death of her husband, Ronald McDonald (true story). She found me on the web, and decided to have a custom StarMural, which led to two, in her master suite. I painted her huge bedroom and large bath too. The bedroom was very special because it had a full wall of mirrors on one end that reflected all of the stars on the ceiling...an effect I call "extra stars at no extra charge"

***I go into my room every night just to gaze at the stars and absolutely LOVE it!! Although my bedroom is still not together yet (waiting for furniture to arrive and crown molding yet to put up) as soon as it is photo worthy I will take a picture and send it on to you. Everyone I have told is totally envious and can't wait until I invite them over for some serious star gazing!!***

***Soon I will be sleeping under a "blanket of stars" each and every night and getting a much more restful sleep -- the Milky Way gets more amazing the more I look at it and it is all thanks to you!!***

***Sharon McDonald - North Bay, Ontario, Canada***

I spoke with her about a year later to let her know I was coming back to Canada...in case she knew of any other project interest there. Here are her most recent comments;

***Hi Rip!! So glad to hear from you!!! Hope your job will go well in Toronto and will keep my ears peeled if anyone else is interested. I LOVE, sleeping under the stars every night and never want to leave this house unless I can take my stars with me!! (lol) You did an amazing job and I still LOVE it!!!***

***The following two pages are whole written and mailed letters, from two clients in Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico, where I lived and operated a small StarMurals showroom for a couple of years.***



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March 28th, 2006

Rip Read  
StarMurals  
Los Patios Hotel  
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Hi Rip,

We wanted to take a minute to say "thanks" for the great StarMurals SkyLite that you recently painted in our Honeymoon Suite [Cardon] at Casa Contenta. We [and our clients] have been ecstatic with the finished mural.

In our business, as an upscale B & B, we are always looking for ways to compete with other lodging options here in Cabo. As is now the trend in the hospitality and lodging industry, we are expected to provide an unforgettable, memorable experience to our guests...to keep them coming back and telling others about us.

Your StarMural really delivers in the memorable and unforgettable category. Our guests have been delighted and impressed with the mural in Cardon, in fact, two of our recent guests have invited other guests from our other suites into Cardon at night to check it out ...it's a welcome addition to the overall quality product that we deliver up here at Casa Contenta.

Keep up the good work Rip, we look forward to having you back for additional artwork here at Casa Contenta in the future.

Sincerely,

Craig Harrison  
CPA, MBA [Ernst] South Africa  
Owner & INNKeeper – Casa Contenta in Cabo San Lucas

March 19, 2006

Rip Read – Startist  
StarMurals Gallery  
Los Patios Hotel – Local #1  
Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico

Dear Rip,

In early December 2005 we visited your StarMurals Gallery at Los Patios Hotel. We were equally impressed, excited, and in awe of the night sky views presented in the gallery. Your StarMurals reminded us both of the great night skies we have been fortunate to experience back home in rural areas of Northern California.

In late December we commissioned you to paint our very special vision of the night sky in our casita bedroom, in Cabo San Lucas. You completed your work in an impressive one-day visit with no inconvenience to us. The sky you painted for us includes a piece of The Milky Way, 4 shooting stars, one of which is a “split” shooting star and hundreds of other stars as well.

We have been happily experiencing this special night sky every night since. We just plug in a small fluorescent light for five minutes or so each night to energize the mural and off we go to a restful night of sleeping under the stars...right in our own bed.

Our StarMural has provided us both with many exotic and erotic nights together, under the stars. We love watching the stars come to life each night...with their subtle twinkling effect...so realistic.

Thanks for the great artwork Rip, we look forward to enjoying our StarMural for many years to come. We have shown our StarMural to all of our friends in Cabo and they all think it is beautiful and great. I think some are a bit jealous.

Sincerely,

Tim & Lynn  
Cabo San Lucas  
Chico, CA

From one of my very first paying clients in the San Diego area, a business associate. I painted a small project in her guest room, a very basic StarMural, and she wanted to use it as a cool and most unexpected surprise for her guests. On the first night she surprised her husband, who didn't have a clue about it...had no idea why she wanted them to sleep in their guestroom, when they had a freshly remodeled master suite. About a week later I received a voice mail message from her asking when I could schedule another visit, to paint a custom StarMural in her master bedroom. As she put it..."we can't keep sleeping in our guestroom." I took that as a compliment.

***"Thank you so much for the great StarMurals in our guestroom and our master bedroom. Our friends and family are amazed when they sleep over. Normally we do not tell our guests that our rooms have been painted with the StarMurals, we like to watch their reactions. It's like sleeping in a comfortable bed in a remote area, outdoors. You could never see the star formations like this while living with the bright lights of the city." - Debbie & Jim, I.B., CA***

From another earlier small project in the San Diego area, came these powerful and kind words.

***"Just a short note to say thanks for the fantastic artwork. The sunroom is now a star room at night. Because the room is small and has a defined ceiling outline, it appears as if there is no ceiling and the stars are REAL!. They even seem to twinkle and move. I'm stoked and so are my family and friends. We sometimes lie on the floor and trip out on the ceiling. As our eyes get used to the dark more and more detail emerges. It's awesome!" - R Harris, San Diego, CA***

From a pro bono project I painted in the Bay Area, for the children of George Mark Children's House...the first hospice for children in the US, came these kind words. I'm very proud of this project, in a most unique room where the kids unwind and de-stress. I always love to paint murals for kids in life threatening circumstances...*I know my StarMurals have the power to help.*

***On behalf of George Mark Children's House, thank you for your generous donation of the StarMural for our Great Vibes Room, in March 2004. The room will be finished soon, and your wonderful mural will bring much joy and a pleasant experience to the children and families staying at the House. Your contribution is very much appreciated.***

***Christy, Communications Director***

## ***Cloth Based Portable StarMurals***

Over the years I have painted over 100 "portable" StarMurals, *for a wide variety of clients and uses.* These are great, in many ways. They are every bit as original and dynamic as my ceiling murals, just painted on large white cloth (typically about 44 square feet). Not only are they fully portable, a concern for renters and college dorm use...*but, they are even washable.* Following are the great kind words of a recent client, shortly after receiving his portable cloth StarMural.

***I really appreciate the "portable" version of your StarMural that I purchased on EBAY. It's absolutely incredible. I mounted mine on the wall and view it at least twice daily -- in the morning and evening. Sometimes I sneak in a few minutes during the day to "calm" my mind. I use it regularly to facilitate my twice daily meditations. I find that staring into the galaxy you've created for me helps quiet all other thoughts and prepares me for a very delicious meditation. I'm a type A and multiple thoughts are constantly rushing through my psyche. I've found the StarMural really helps me reach and maintain a deep and satisfying meditative state. Even people who don't meditate as a lifestyle choice would find that a few minutes in front of or under the mural to be very rejuvenating. And after a long, stress filled day, viewing the mural before retiring for the night helps ensure me a restful night's sleep. Thanks much for creating such a beneficial piece of quality art. JDR - Vallejo, CA***

## ***Cloth Based StarMurals Samples Travel Worldwide***

A few years back I figured out how to scale down my dynamic StarMurals effects to a shippable size for client consideration on a global basis. I've made and shipped over 100 of these...and they always bring the same kind of responses as my larger scale work...*which is a wonderful thing.* Here are a few of dozens of great comments...*from around the world.*

This one from the queen of the Hollywood gift basket...in advance of featuring StarMurals in her celebrity gift baskets at the last Emmy awards show.

***Rip, The mural is AMAZING! I love it :) I cannot wait to work with you.***

***Best Regards,  
Lisa Gal - Hollywood Baskets***

From a very hot architect in Romania, that now represents my work in the region. This note was sent after viewing a larger custom cloth sample piece...*for a project in a very special large home.*

***It is fantastic, I'm sure that this sample will impress anyone. I showed it to a few friends first and they were amazed. Maybe today or tomorrow I'll give the sample to the client, however he said that he will do this anyway just after he saw the small sample. - Robert Tuzson – Architect – Romania***

These are the comments of a great couple in the Houston area, that wanted to get a better sense of the dynamic "claimed" effects...*just to be sure*. I was in Houston a couple of weeks later...a large bedroom in the remodel phase...*but at just the right stage for me*. They were so hospitable and great to work with. The night before the painting day they picked me up and took me to their home for an excellent gourmet meal...including fresh Redfish that he had caught in the Gulf (with photographic proof), and more. Turns out he is an Executive Chef for Chevron...*for the top executives*.

***Astounding! We had such fun last night watching the "sky" appear before our eyes. And, it got clearer and darker as time passed. Really, really cool! Can't wait to see it again tonight.***

***Sallie Johnston - Houston, TX 2008***

These comments are from an Interior Designer in Orlando, FL.

***Just to let you know the sample arrived today...It truly is amazing...  
We only had it under fluorescent light for about 3 mins. & you could see the result.  
It really is an amazing piece of artwork. You are really gifted!***

***Kirk Larente – Orlando, FL***

This great feedback from a high end home theatre designer, in Maryland.

***I received your sample last week and have been busy showing it around to prospective clients, then leaving one of your postcards for them to contact you. You were right, the most usual response was "WOW!". Looking forward to closing some of these prospects into clients.***

***Joe Burke – Digisys***

These insightful words came from a science professor, in Tehran, Iran...before the tensions increased. Now, of course, I wouldn't travel to Iran.

***I saw your sample and...Let me put it in this way: I saw the desert sky on my wall and I just wanted to sit and stare at it all night long. I am sure it would be much better on a ceiling. I can imagine how much enjoyment would come to the eyes by seeing this 3D art.***

I have dozens of news media feature stories and interviews, in radio, TV and print forms...as published in forums from Kuwait to Hong Kong to Los Angeles to London and Las Vegas and elsewhere...all with the same general vibe...***they are all blown away...always...come see for yourself.***

I invite you to visit my private showroom in Las Vegas, by appointment. The StarMurals showroom is available Monday through Friday, during normal business hours, and is conveniently located just 5 minutes from the south end of The Strip. ***Call to arrange a private viewing...702.988.1171.***