

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 airmail 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.