



# “MAIDEN & UNICORNE”

The Great Healing Power of the Unicorne Made Manifest

**I**F THERE WAS ONE mythic animal that DARLENE has depicted more than dragons, it would have to be the unicorn.

DARLENE's romance with both dragons and unicorns began years before she became the first female D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) artist during the late 1970's/early 1980's. In college, she exhaustively researched the nature and lore of unicorns.

Perhaps this familiarity is why she so often chose the unicorn as her subject matter for the RPG (Role Playing Game) genre. Her most well-known published unicorn subjects include the colorful cover of The Dragon magazine (#37, shown above), the iconic title page for The Dungeon Master's Guide (DMG), as well as various depictions for Gen Con, RPG's annual convention.

During her fantasy art period, DARLENE also created unique

unicorn merchandize in the form of fantasy note pads, tablets, rubber stamps, and book plates. But that was a long time ago.

Now, some thirty years later, the unicorn as an art subject has reappeared in DARLENE's newest work. DARLENE decided to recreate her original Dragon cover using a new digital computer art style she's developed during the winter months of 2009. It's ultra-realistic, yet painterly.

In the intervening years she was away from RPG, DARLENE investigated the profoundly sacred relationship between art and spirituality. From several sources, she learned the ways art can become imbued with the power of healing light.

During the last two decades, DARLENE delved ever deeper into metaphysics, adopting a number of methodologies to hone her strong intuitive abilities. She became

acquainted with Shamanism, Tibetan Buddhism, Sufism, Esoteric Christian Mysticism, and the practices of Western Hermeticism. She also studied the living language of symbols, sacred geometry, as well as energetic healing techniques.

Usually, DARLENE has been very careful to keep her excursions into sacred art separate from her responsibilities in the mundane world. That is, until now. What was originally meant to serve as fantasy art recently converged with DARLENE's ability to touch the healing aspects of Spirit.

According to DARLENE: "My shift in focus coincided with an upward surge of energy. Suddenly, I perceived my true role as artist during these uncertain times is to create art with powerful healing potentials.

"As 2012 approaches, we are entering, as a collective, into a new state of becoming. It's important to



DARLENE's artwork, MAIDEN & UNICORNE, created for HDTV, may be purchased online at: <http://www.art-on-demand.com/user/productdetail.php?pid=182> for only \$20

maintain a positive outlook. Thus, I've integrated my art with my spiritual practices to create a foundation of hope that can take the viewer energetically from the lip of chaos and destruction to a gentler place of beauty and divine benevolence. If we can envision it, we can make it real."

### **THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS**

Purity is the virtue that attracts the unicorn. The virtuous maiden has always been the means to subdue the unicorn. However, in this dimension, the maiden does not betray the unicorn to the hunter. The maiden is the conduit, the means by which the unicorn's healing strength can be accessed.

The White Maiden or White Lady has long served as the Guardian Spirit of the Waters of Life, the spring of renewal. The 15th century unicorn tapestries show these healing waters as a fountain fenced within a well-maintained grotto. The maiden became known as the Lady of the Fountain. However, in this scene the spiritual haven is a wild place. There is no spring-fed fountain nor is there a captive unicorn

tethered upon a tree. Here, the rawness of Nature is uncontained, but it's beauty still haunting and eternal.

The scene is deep autumn, symbolic of life-in-death. The dying leaves fall to earth before the onset of winter. The skulls represent the fleeting nature of beauty and how death gives meaning to life. Everything is a part of nature's rich cycle: the fallen autumn leaves become fertilizer for spring's new growth.

A spiral horn grows from the unicorn's brow, from the seat of the intellect, the third eye. The horn as all-seeing eye is the eye that perceives dreams as inner vision. So the "horniness" of the unicorn and of the virgin who takes the animal in her lap actually both express the desire for inner sight, for the opening and activation of creative vision.

The horn gradates from deep purple to almost white, the tip of the horn being the lightest. The unicorn has cloven hooves in shades of purple, tingled by long tufts of hair. Its white mane and tail are brilliant.

One of the chief healing properties of the unicorn's horn is to render poison/toxicity harmless.

### **MANIFESTING HARMONY, GOODNESS, AND PURITY:**

According to the ancient Taoist Chinese, the unicorn is one of the four Spiritually Endowed Creatures and represents the essence of the five elements. The unicorn signifies gentleness, benevolence, good will, felicity, longevity, wise administration, grandeur and illustrious offspring.

During the painting process, DARLENE meditated upon the above-mentioned qualities and encoded those traits energetically within every pixel of the painting. Thus, the tremendous healing power of the unicorn becomes accessible to those who still believe in the divine power of miracles.

These qualities can be accessed and generated within the lives of anyone who can resonate with it. Yet, the "Maiden and Unicorn" also functions passively, as a beautiful work of art.

In Christian terms, the Unicorn traditionally represents Christ and the maiden, Mother Mary.

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Merchandise created from the MAIDEN & UNICORNE artwork may be purchased online at: <http://www.zazzle.com/darleneartist> This image will work as a healing talisman in any media.