## A Word from the Artist on "A Crimson Tradition"

Now that I have finished the preliminary pencil drawing for "A Crimson Tradition," I am excited to find myself in the oil painting stage of the work. At the completion of the painting, New Life Art will immediately begin the process of publishing the limited edition prints and getting them out to you. As you may know from the thousand hours or so that I put into "Maximum Block," I don't believe in sacrificing quality over market expediency. I am willing to devote whatever time is required to make each of the five paintings in "The Greatest Season Ever" series worthy of becoming lasting heirlooms, to be handed down to the future generations of our Alabama Family. I hope that the patience that you and I both extend will be well worth the wait.

"A Crimson Tradition," the second in my series of "The Greatest Season Ever," will be highly symbolic. If any school can claim that "winning National Championships" in football is a big part of its tradition, its Alabama — with 13 of them. I want this painting to convey the positive ideals of Alabama's great tradition of teamwork and winning, and in particular, the winning of the 2009 National Championship. And of course, this painting is about Coach Saban and how winning and accomplishing goals is achieved through his well-proven "Process."

I am very pleased with the outcome of my preliminary pencil study for "A Crimson Tradition." Weeks of research and work went into developing and executing this drawing. Although this research and drawing stage didn't take nearly as long as will the actual painting process, the overall image itself and most of the artistic considerations will have been developed during this time. In that regard, I feel like I am about 90% finished. Aside from the refinement capabilities that working in oils provides (and the obvious addition of color), I will make some minor modifications to the actual painting as I go. As this is always the case with the transition from my drawings to my final paintings, it is also part of the purpose in carefully planning out the work by means of either a quick sketch or more refined drawing. With a complex work like this one, or "Maximum Block," I felt a more refined drawing would be most helpful. In my preliminary drawing of "Maximum Block," you may have noticed that I did not include Nico Johnson, but after reevaluating the pencil study, I saw where the composition called for the additional Alabama player.

For "A Crimson Tradition," I am contemplating the inclusion of further symbolic imagery that will be barely noticeable, but will not change the look and feel that I have established in the preliminary pencil drawing for the painting. When I have finished, I may write further about the symbolism contained in the painting.

Thanks for your support for my work and for your interest in "A Crimson Tradition."

God Bless and Roll Tide,

Samil Mere

Daniel A. Moore UA Class of '76

**CLICK HERE** to return to the home page.