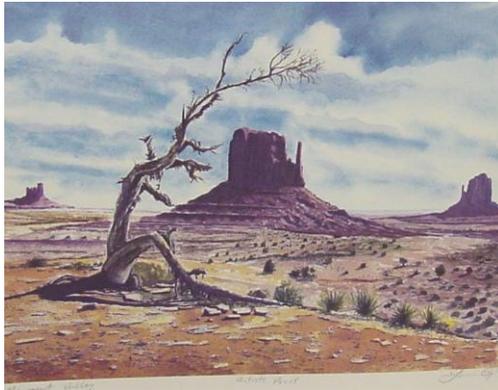


This work of art was part of the Maupintour corporate art collection until 2007. Maupintour was founded in the 1950's in Lawrence, Kansas by pioneer American travel entrepreneur Tom Maupin and was for many years one of America's premier luxury tour companies. Many thousands of travelers have delighted in the wonders of the United States while traveling with Maupintour.



Louis Copt **“Monument Valley”, 1986**

Hand-signed Artist's Proof print, from the watercolor

Louis Copt

Louis Copt is from Lawrence, Kansas, where Maupintour was founded and headquartered for many years. Maupintour patronized many local artists and purchased a number of Mr Copt's works from the mid to late 1980's, including the original watercolor of this piece, “Monument Valley.” Some of these works hung in the Maupintour offices and some were given as gifts to colleagues and customers.

Mr Copt has been a working artist since the early 1980's and has worked with oil, acrylic, pastel, and watercolor. His main emphasis over the years has been landscape painting, such as this work. Most of his early works, like this piece, were watercolors, depicting various travel and landscape scenes. Lately, he's worked primarily with oils, focusing on regional scenes, including the Prairie Burnings, annual controlled fires in the Midwest prairies.

Louis' work shows regularly in galleries throughout the mid-west. He has participated in a number of national juried shows, and his work is collected by people throughout the world.

His website is www.louiscopt.com

Monument Valley

Monument Valley, in the open desert lands of southern Utah, is one of the most compelling natural settings in the United States. For centuries, it has been a spiritual center of the Navajo people, and it's vast, sparsely-populated lands are revered by the tribe. The scene depicted by Louis Copt is perhaps the most known and photographed in Monument Valley. The buttes in the center foreground and on the right are known as “Left Mitten” and “Right Mitten”, respectively, for their resemblance to a pair of gloves held up. Untold numbers have stood before this view and held their hands in front of them, mimicking the view. The old tree in the foreground, long resting in this pose, and also well known, provides a striking counterpoint to the full scene. It's gnarled visage is animated with a serene spirituality, weathered but still standing, anchored in an often difficult, but truly beautiful world.

