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Local Carmel Valley artist, B.E. Johnson (BJ) was honored this past weekend as music channel VH1 announced their 50 greatest album covers countdown. BJ's "Nemesis" painting was featured among the top 50, for the cover of Public Enemy's 1990 compact disc, "Fear of a Black Planet."

"Album covers are indelible symbols of what can happen when the boundless creative forces and extravagant minds of the world's most successful artists and musicians collide." - MTV Networks.

Working with the recording artists and Columbia Records, BJ painted an ominous looking planet, emblazoned with the recording artists logo glowing as a volcanic crater, on a direct path toward Earth, with a brilliant star and nebula scene in the distance. This 30" x 20" painting was created specifically for the CD cover, and completed while BJ lived in a small studio over one of the premier antique shops in Carmel, Off The Wall.

"It is easy for me to create beautiful vistas on canvas, when I live in such a gorgeous and inspiring area. To look out at the ocean and let my mind envision the wonders of our Universe, and then to be surrounded by the warmth and kindness found in the people of this small town, I am truly blessed. I am also deeply honored by being held in the company of the other great visual and recording artists noted on this prestigious list of greatest covers."

Now living in Carmel Valley, BJ continues to create otherworldly views, both on canvas and in sculpted glass. His works can be viewed online at www.spherical.org and he can be reached at 659-4950.

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