

IDEAS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

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Chris Gardner

Defining Success and Making a Difference

**Don Wilson**

DRW's Approach to CME Eurodollar Trading

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Artist LeRoy Neiman is anything but a derivatives expert, although he has painted a number of financial exchanges. One of the best-known living artists in the United States, Neiman is recognized for using vibrant colors and expressive brush strokes. This vibrancy captures the passion he sensed at CME in his most recent painting of a financial exchange, "The Chicago Mercantile Exchange."

"Exchanges are difficult because to the uninitiated they're mob scenes," Neiman says. "There is a lot of ruckus that gives you a gut feeling of the competitiveness –

the shouting, the noise of all these people who are working on the floor. You can't depict each individual so you try to capture a flavor of the scene, which is one of controlled mayhem."

CME member Don Nadick commissioned Neiman to create the painting.

"I grew up here. The exchange means a lot to me," Nadick says. "CME has given me so much pleasure over the years that I wanted to showcase my passion for it."

The four-month-long project began when Nadick brought Neiman onto the trading floors, where Nadick pointed out the different attire and explained the role of CME. Neiman also spoke with many of the traders, which he feels is what made the painting "work."

"They talked about what they were doing, what the exchange was doing," Neiman says.

"These guys are on top of it. You benefit from working with them because they are the masters."

"To me, Neiman wanted everyone to think that the painting captured their world, a commodities trader or a currency trader," Nadick says.

Neiman's repertoire of works depicting exchanges includes the Chicago Board of Trade and the Paris Bourse. Next year he is scheduled to paint the oldest exchange in the world, the Amsterdam Stock Exchange.

Speaking of his approach to CME, Neiman says, "You don't copy what you see, you respond to what you see. Every color of the rainbow is in that room – starting with the yellows and reds of the jackets. You also have psychological colors – relationship colors." Neiman adds, "First it's the painting, then it's the subject. If you're painting outside and look outside every day, every color is in the sky – different seasons, different weather. Every color is there, it's just how you use it."

Neiman managed to capture many finite details, from the janitor pushing papers to the electronic trading boards and currency flags. The work is impressionistic yet all-encompassing and it highlights CME as an innovator of ideas.

Serigraphs of "The Chicago Mercantile Exchange" can be purchased at www.atkinsonfineart.com.