



KEN RICHARDS

A Man of Many Talents

by Steven Chan

A

fixture of the South-Coast for dozens of years and mostly known for his musical prowess, Ken Richards has spent years performing as a soloist, and as a member of the invariably prolific band Pearly Baker.

Many who have befriended the affable musician have learned that behind the scarf and the graying “door knocker” mustache

and goatee is a self-taught artist who, according to his biography, has been painting landscapes since 1992.

His body of work—nearly all originals, absent of any giclée reproductions—are scooped up in short order and demand is ever-present. But with such a close following, Richards recently produced several scenes from New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, and South Dartmouth, Mass., which vibrate with an array of late summer colors and textures.

The collection, which will be on display at two SouthCoast galleries, was produced by Richards specifically for fine art reproductions. The advanced technique of taking the original works, scanning them into a computer, then printing on museum-quality archival cotton paper using seven special inks will allow a much larger audience to collect and enjoy this artist’s talent.

Richards, who splits his time between New Bedford, Mass. and Mykonos, Greece, explained that the Greek landscape originally inspired him to paint. The rich, colorful countryside is transformed into large, bold acrylics on canvas or linen. With private showings in Athens, Paris, London and New York, Richards has gathered an international reputation. Along the southeastern Massachusetts coast, his work is equally well-received, especially his paintings highlighting his talent for capturing the color and movement of bodies of water.

“I want my paintings to go beyond the mere representation of light, shape and color—[they should] reveal the emotional rhythms, impressions and sheer delight in what the planet has to offer,” Richards says in describing his motivation.

There is a tranquil feeling in his most recent works, as Richards puts what he sees and feels at a location into the medium in which he is working.

And while this artist is self-taught, Richards gives credit to nature as his teacher. He is a multi-talented individual who is best described as a Renaissance man worth taking a second look at.

Richards’ works will be on exhibit at Art Smart Galleries and Framing Studios, 331 State Road, Dartmouth, Mass., which can be reached at 508-992-8111, and at their Fairhaven location, 209 Huttleston Avenue, which can be reached at 508-997-7500, from December through January 2012. Original works will be on sale and orders will be taken for giclée prints. ★



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