

GULFSCAPES

FINER GULF COAST LIVING

\$5.95 US VOL. 8, No. 28



AUGUST ISSUE 2008

REFLECTIONS

M E E T P A I N T E R

"Tall Ship Elissa with USS Texas Submarine"



"My love of the Coastal Bend's imagery gave me the perfect place to paint. Yet, much of what I like about the old harbor scenes are quickly disappearing with new development. The **old shrimp boats and cruisers** that I remember as a child are almost all gone."

OF AN ARTIST

LARRY FELDER

waterfront

ARTISTS RETURNS TO COAST TO PAINT BOATS AND WATER AFTER 27 YEARS

Sometimes an artist's development doesn't occur linearly. Occasionally, there is an absence of art for a period, like it went on vacation. So is the case of painter Larry Felder. Felder started painting boats and water at age 12, when he spent most of his summers at his grandfather's house in Port Aransas, Texas. But after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 with a degree in fine art, Larry left his painting behind and spent the next 27 years in the advertising and publishing fields.

When he and his wife, Linda, became empty nesters, they moved to Rockport to be near the renowned artist community and, more importantly, to be near the old harbors and boats Larry knew from his childhood. Because Larry had decided he was going to start painting again. And paint he has. He has gained a wide reputation for his eye to detail and for the shimmering reflections he creates in his coastal scenes. Larry also has opened **The Felder Gallery**, located in **Rockport's Downtown Heritage District**, which displays works from Larry and several other artists.

The coastal scenes Mr. Felder commits to canvas would be familiar if you have visited the quaint harbors along the Gulf coast, and seen the smaller, more unique crafts that ply their trade in the small bays and estuaries rather than the deeper Gulf. "I look for the most unusual boats. I shy away from the typical Gulf shrimp boats in favor of the smaller bay shrimping and oystering boats. Each one is different, hand-built to the specifications of the individual fisherman. There are no two alike and I like to mix them in my harbor views. The same can be said about the riggings of each boat. Each fisherman does things a little differently. It's similar to comparing tackle boxes. They all have much of the same stuff in them, but no two are arranged exactly the same," explained Felder.

Unfortunately, his choice of inspiration is getting harder to find.



old harbors and boats shimmering reflections

The coastal scenes Larry Felder commits to canvas would be familiar if you have visited the quaint harbors along the Gulf coast, and seen the smaller, more unique crafts that ply their trade in the small bays and estuaries rather than the deeper Gulf. Above, an oil by Felder, "**Five Boats.**"

calendar

ALABAMA

Aug 1, 2008 - The Taste of the Eastern Shore – Daphne, Touted as one of the best food, beverage, and entertainment events around. The Taste of the Eastern Shore features 50 restaurants, catering, and beverage companies from Baldwin and Mobile counties with music by “Tip Top”. www.tasteoftheeasternshore.com

Aug 14-17, 2008 - Thunder on the Gulf - Orange Beach, Free. Boats travel along a race-course at speeds exceeding 100 mph fighting to be first over the finish line. Come and see high-powered machines running at these speeds with no breaks. Thur.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. www.thunderonthegulf.com

Sept 13-14, 2008 - Mobile Symphony's Opening Night – The Mobile Symphony's opening concert features George Gershwin's fabulous tour-de-force, Rhapsody in Blue, and the dynamic Ravel Piano Concerto, both played by renowned Canadian pianist, Alain Lefevre. This crowd-pleaser will also include swashbuckling symphonic music from the 1940 film, The Sea Hawk by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and Respighi's triumphant Roman Festivals. www.mobilesymphony.org

FLORIDA

July 5-Nov. 30, 2008 - Museum of Fine Arts features The Photography of Ansel Adams – St. Petersburg, Ansel Adams and the American West celebrate the American master Ansel Adams (1902-1984) and his contributions to the progress of photography as an art form. It also honors his activities that helped to preserve the beauty of the American landscape and our national parks. Thirty of the nearly 60 photographs are by Adams, including several large-scale images. www.fine-arts.org

July 15 - July 20, 2008 - Hemingway Days – Key West, The 28th celebration of the legendary author's work and lifestyle features literary readings, a theatrical premiere, short story competition, fishing tournament, Sloppy Joe's Look-Alike Contest and a pre-birthday “party” commemorating Ernest's July 21st birthday. www.hemingwaydays.net

Aug. 8-10, 2008 - 12th annual Key West Lobsterfest, Lobsterfest is a celebration saluting Florida's clawless tasty crustaceans. The events are at the start of the Florida Keys lobster season, which runs from Aug. 6 through March 31, 2009. Lobsterfest's Street Fair is the highlight of the festival and runs from Saturday at noon till 11 p.m. The street fair's main course, naturally, is lobster — with dishes ranging from tantalizing appetizers to traditional lobster dinners with all the trimmings. All lobster offerings available for purchase will be prepared by chefs from leading local restaurants, and all will rely on lobster caught by Keys lobster fishermen. www.keywestlobsterfest.com

Aug. 15, 2008 - Full Moon Walks on the Beach - Pensacola, Enjoy an hour-long program celebrating the night sky and the full moon beginning at the gate to Fort Pickens Area and con-



“Hu Dat”

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“Much of what I like about the old harbor scenes is quickly disappearing with new development,” he said. “The old shrimp boats and cruisers that I remember as a child are almost all gone. I have a lot of reference photos that I have taken through the years to work from, but seeing a scene in person is best.”

Why is painting a scene in person better than painting from a photograph? Larry describes why, “I think in terms of painting what the eye sees, not necessarily what the photo shows. A person's eye is so much better than what any camera can depict. There is a lot more information in the shadows and highlights than a photo can show you. I use



the photo as a reference to the details, especially the riggings and details I enjoy painting on the boats. I rarely paint the water of my reference photo.”

The water and its reflections are signature elements to many of Felder's paintings. The reflections are intricate and detailed in the way they bend and warp with the waves, distorting boats and wharfs. The reflections are Larry's favorite painting step, “My favorite part of the painting process is about the last hour of painting. During the planning stage I can easily visualize how I want it to turn out, so I can't wait to get to the point where the ‘magic’ begins, in other words, when I paint the reflections on the water and make that look real.”

When asked if every painting had a happy ending, in other words, what happens at the end if you don't like it, he responded, “I generally don't stop until I like it. I have been known to completely paint out water and paint it again using a different strategy. Unfortunately, just because I like it doesn't mean other people will. I have a few paintings at home that have not sold but I like them anyway and will keep them.”

Larry finds one of the best ways to find out what other people think of his work is to observe them in his gallery as they walk around looking at the art.

“Morning at Casterlines” is available for sale at Felder Gallery.

“The most successful paintings are the ones that demand that the viewer stop and look. I can see it in

their eyes. I also enjoy the look on people's faces when I help hang a piece in their home. Making someone happy makes me happy and I measure the success of my own work in that way," he said.

One very happy occasion occurred about a year ago. It is a touching story, as Larry tells it, "I received a call from an older gentleman from San Antonio who had been told that if he wanted a boat painted I was his man. He told me that he was very hard to work with and I might not want the hassle. A challenge! I listened as he described his last experience with commissioning an artwork. He thought artists had egos inflated to the heavens and wasn't sure he could work with one again.

"About a year earlier he had taken a photo of an historic event when the USS Texas Nuclear Attack Submarine was being

commissioned in Galveston harbor. The photo showed the tall ship Elissa sailing alongside the sub as it made its way into the bay. He was a retired Navy officer and collected marine art. He just had to have a painting of this contrast between the old and new Navy vessels.

"It wasn't the subject matter that I normally painted but something inside of me wanted to restore his faith in my fellow artists. To make a long story short, I completed the painting to his satisfaction after several months of sketches and details emailed between us. He was very happy and we had become friends during that time even though we only communicated through emails.

"He retained the original but had three Giclee made. One of those prints now hangs in the Officer's Mess on the actual submarine. Another was presented to the WWII

Museum in Fredericksburg. And, the other was given to the Galveston Historic Society, which owns and maintains the Elissa.

"It wasn't the money that I enjoyed in that commission. It was the new friends I made and the joy he received when he shared my piece with his comrades."

Larry continues to enjoy making others happy. He continues painting his beloved boats and harbors, but takes time for other things, occasionally. He is currently the President of the Rockport Heritage District Association, which works to keep the downtown Rockport area developing in a positive way to preserve its small, beach village charm. He also has started taking vacations, most recently to Costa Rica. Do these outside activities portend another vacation from painting? Not hardly. He's already started painting Costa Rican scenes. We can't wait to see.

unlock the secrets of leonardo da vinci MAN-INVENTOR-GENIUS

SPECIAL EXHIBITION EXPLORES AMAZING INVENTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL RENAISSANCE MAN

It has been said that a "jack of all trades is master of none," a figure of speech implying that one must focus on a single field in order to become proficient at it. As the original "Renaissance Man," Leonardo da Vinci is certainly the exception to the rule. Among his diverse talents, da Vinci designed flying machines, robots, submarines, underwater breathing gear and solar powered industries; laid most of the groundwork for the artificial heart valve; and created some of the greatest paintings in the history of art. With little formal education, Leonardo demonstrated his brilliance by mastering diverse subjects and fusing them together through observation, insight and inspiration.

Decipher the mystery of this extraordinary intellect in Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius, a spectacular exhibition which reveals the ingenuity and brilliance of a man ahead of his time. Explore the myths and legends surrounding da Vinci's life, and consider how his legacy inspires and challenges us today, at **the Houston Museum of Natural Science**, through September. (www.hmns.org)

"A multi-faceted genius of Leonardo da Vinci's caliber has rarely been seen in human history. He had so many different interests—and excelled in so many different areas—that he truly is the quintessential "renaissance man," said Joel A. Bartsch, president of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "Almost 500 years after his death, people still marvel at the astonishing breadth and depth of his accomplishments. We hope visitors will be inspired by the way da Vinci thought and worked to get more

in touch with their own 'inner creative genius' and use it to better their everyday lives."

Long associated with paintings such as Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, Leonardo's talents extended far beyond his paintbrush into the fields of science and engineering. He was also a prolific inventor. During his lifetime, Leonardo produced thousands of individual sketches, inventions and designs exploring topics from human flight to warfare and the natural world.

Guests will explore more than 50 custom-built wooden models of Leonardo's most innovative designs and inventions, including a hang glider, helicopter, military tank and elegant bridge structures—many of which can be seen realized in today's technology. These models have been produced in vivid detail from his original drawings by skilled Italian craftsmen in Florence, Italy. Numerous models will be interactive and hands-on, and guests are encouraged to push, pull and crank for a greater understanding of their purpose and operation.

"Leonardo da Vinci is probably the most diversely intelligent person to have ever lived," said David Temple, associate curator of paleontology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "He excelled far beyond the scientific horizons of his time by inventing technologically advanced equipment like the underwater breathing device that is used by scuba-divers today, as well as by improving upon previous designs of a tank for soldiers to maneuver safely through war zones. Visitors will be able to see models of these ingenious inventions, and many more, in the exhibition."

MAKE PLANS

JOE SEARS AND JASTON WILLIAMS AS VEGAS SHOWGIRLS IN TUNA DOES VEGAS, A NEW COMEDY ON STAGE AT THE GRAND IN GALVESTON AUG. 5-24.



GALVESTON— Tuna Does Vegas, the hilarious new installment from the legendary “Greater Tuna” creative team, rolls into Galveston’s Grand 1894 Opera House for a strictly limited engagement August 5-24. Starring the incomparable duo Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, Tuna Does Vegas re-unites the lovable and eccentric characters from the ‘third smallest town in Texas’ as they take a rambling romp in Sin City. The fun begins when oddball conservative radio host Arles Struvie announces on air that he and his wife Bertha Bumiller are heading to Vegas to renew their wedding vows...but everyone in Tuna, Texas goes along for the ride. Written by **Jaston Williams**,

Joe Sears and Ed Howard, Tuna Does Vegas will feature the favorite characters from the award-winning “Greater Tuna” productions with some new characters too—all staged under the directorial hand of Mr. Howard.

Sears and Williams perform all the roles of the eclectic inhabitants of Tuna—men, women, as well as Vegas showgirls, Elvis impersonators and more. Tuna Does Vegas will feature scenery designed by **Christopher McCollum**, costumes designed by **Linda Fisher**, lighting designed by **David Nancarrow** and sound designed by **Ken Huncovsky**. For more information about Tuna Does Vegas visit www.tunadoesvegasthetour.com



SOUTH PADRE— The 49th Annual Beachcomber Fine Art Show will take place July 26, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and July 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the South Padre Island Convention Center. More than 100 artists will fill the main exhibition hall of the Convention Center with a variety of original artwork in all mediums from traditional to contemporary. The **Beachcomber Fine Art Show** is the longest running annual art show in the Rio Grande Valley. There is a \$3 donation at the door to attend.

cluding on the beach in the park. Visitors should be prepared to walk about half a mile down the closed roadway and out to the beach, and bring a blanket or towel upon which to sit in the sand. Begins at 7:30 pm. Entrance gate to Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore. 850-934-2600 Admission is free. www.nps.gov/guis/planyourvisit/events.htm

Aug. 20-24, 2008 - Grand Lagoon National Saltwater Fishing Tournament – Panama City Beach, Poised to become one of the nation’s largest, most inclusive sport-fishing tournaments, the Grand Lagoon National boasts six competitive divisions at four marinas for a one million dollar purse. More than 400 boats and 2,000 anglers from across the country are expected. www.grandlagoonnational.com

Aug. 30, 2008 - Digital Graffiti - Alys Beach “Digital Graffiti” at Alys Beach is a festival created to celebrate and promote the world’s most talented and innovative digital artists - with the entire town literally serving as their canvas. Sometimes referred to as “Photon Bombing,” “Guerilla Projection,” “Projection Bombing” or “Urban Projection,” artists use the latest technologies to project their unique works onto the white walls of Alys Beach, Florida. www.digitalgraffiti.info

Aug. 30 - 31, 2008 - 43rd annual Summerset Regatta - Ft. Myers Beach, Fifty boats carrying 250 sailors will compete in the 43rd annual Summerset Regatta over Labor Day weekend this year. For the past 36 years, the event has been hosted by a local yachting club that calls itself the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS), but sailors from up and down the Southwest Florida coast participate. Crowds gather on the Fort Myers Beach Fishing Pier and the beach around it for a staggered send-off of the different divisions of boats beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30. www.cmcs-sail.org

Sept. 19, 2008 - Americana singer-songwriter John Prine - Clearwater, Grammy Award winning John Prine emerged on the music scene in 1971, and during his three-decade plus career, he has released critically acclaimed albums such as Sweet Revenge and Common Sense. In 2003 he was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and two years later he was named Americana Music Awards Artist of the Year. Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 N. McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater. www.rutheckerdhall.com

LOUISIANA
July 31 - Aug. 3, 2008 - The Eighth Annual Satchmo SummerFest – New Orleans, Come Celebrate the life of Louis Armstrong with a fun-filled weekend of activities, food and music with four stages all located within the Old US Mint including: Traditional Jazz Stage, Contemporary Jazz Stage, and a Brass Band Stage; Plus a Children’s Stage Located in Dutch Alley as well as all of our speaker seminars with national speakers. www.satchmo-summerfest.com

Aug. 2-3, 2008 - This year's **Great American Seafood Cook-Off** takes place August 2, 2008 to August 3, 2008 in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Great American Seafood Cook-Off is presented by the Louisiana Seafood Board and is held concurrently with the Louisiana Restaurant Association's Foodservice EXPO. The Foodservice EXPO also presents another cook-off, **The Louisiana Alligator Soirée**, on August 4, 2008, which features student teams from Louisiana's top culinary schools to boost consumer and foodservice awareness of the incredibly lean and wonderfully delicious Louisiana alligator meat. Visit www.LouisianaSeafood.com.

Aug. 15-17, 2008 - Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Cup - Chalmette, The community of Chalmette keeps rebuilding after Katrina and it is proud to put its natural resources at the forefront of its effort: Redfish are thriving again as bayous once destroyed by the storm have begun to recover. The water quality has improved and fishing around Chalmette is as good or better for speckled trout and redfish than before the storm. www.redfishcup.com

MISSISSIPPI

July 31 - Aug. 3, 2008 - 14th Annual Carl Legett Memorial Fishing Tournament - Biloxi, Fishing tournament with the proceeds going to local charities. Anglers compete for cash prizes! Hosted by the Home Builders Association of the Mississippi Coast. July 31st - Registration & Kick off party for entrants at 6-9pm; Tournament begins Aug. 1st! Point Cadet Marina, Biloxi (228) 323-4171

Sept. 11, 2008 - Wayne Newton - Biloxi "Mr. Las Vegas" performs live! 8pm, Beau Rivage Casino Resort, Beau Rivage Theatre, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi. www.beaurivage.com

TEXAS

July 1-Sept. 1, 2008 - Flamingo Fandango - Corpus Christi, The South Texas Botanical Gardens hosts The Flamingo Fandango best-dressed bird competition, which is open to the public. The traditional pink lawn ornaments are decorated and displayed on the garden grounds. Professional and amateur artists of all ages are encouraged to stretch their artistic wings, creating a work of flamingo foolery with imagination the only boundary. Prizes will be given. www.stxbot.org

July 23 - 27, 2008 - Rockport Offshore Fishing Challenge 2008 - Rockport, Texas 6th Annual Offshore Fishing Tournament. Registration is July 23 at the Key Allegro Marina from 2pm to 8pm. Fishing begins at 5:30am on July 25. Boats must be checked in by 6:30pm July 26 at Key Allegro. www.rockportoffshore.com

July 24 - 26, 2008 - Texas Race Week - Galveston, More than 50 sailboats will race on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico during Texas Race Week. This event will happen in Galveston for a second consecutive year, after a very successful return to Galveston in 2007. There will be one race each day, and the recommended places to watch the races are East



Water Basket by Martin Waugh

WATER: A THEMED EXHIBIT

ARTISTS' REFLECTIONS OF OUR CONNECTION TO WATER

CLEAR LAKE, TX- Water. The Houston Bay Area is surrounded by water and it plays an important role in everyone's life. On August 21st The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake (TAACCL) will open an exhibit that uses sculpture, painting, photography, surf board art and, yes watercolor to explore this element as a theme as well as a medium for expression.

Patrons will enjoy traditional depictions of seascapes as they listen to sounds generated by several fountains in the Center's lovely atrium but they will also enjoy work that uses water in different ways - self described "liquid sculptor" Martin Waugh, uses high-speed photography to capture the smooth and effortless curves of liquid eliciting a childlike sense of fun and whimsy. Colin

Zelt, a photographer recently exhibited at the Galveston Art Center is known for his epic series of surreal photographs, many of these depict the decaying power of water. Sculptor Pat Moberly Moore's figurative works that often have a fluid look about them will complement the work of "water sculptor" Julie Meeks who uses a single boulder to create flowing waterfalls. Collectors will be drawn to a display of "surf-board art" and an exhibit of Space Station training instructor, William Todd's amphicar.

The exhibit will be on display between Aug. 21 and Sept. 25. The Center's Hours of Operation are Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm. For more information on The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake visit www.TAACCL.org.

