

LAUNCH

Stellers Gallery of Ponte Vedra Opens the 2006 Season.



Stellers Gallery of Ponte Vedra will exhibit the work of six nationally-recognized artists during the launch of the gallery's annual show of new art. The show, entitled Launch, features artists Teruko Wilde, Sabre Esler, Shaun MacDavid, Giovanni Casadei, Shirley Rasmussen and Wendy Martin. All artists are from the U.S. and are widely collected and respected in their field. The work includes landscapes, figures, still lifes, abstracts, mixed media pieces, collages and more.

"Throughout the year, Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra has selected artists from around the country to be a part of its second annual Launch show. This year's group of artists are from areas as diverse as New Mexico, Connecticut, and Georgia. Gallery owner Hillary Tuttle says, "The work is by established to emerging artists; contemporary to traditional. Each artist offers their unique and visionary interpretation of our natural world."

A LITTLE ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Teruko T. Wilde was born in Nagoya, Japan. She moved to the United States as a teenager and studied at the University of Cincinnati as well as the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. She established herself as a prominent pastel and watercolor artist before moving to Taos, New Mexico in 1986. Inspired by the mag-

nificence of the landscape here, she began Southwest Series in oils. Wilde's development towards simplicity in her paintings has progressed to the point of abstraction. "The overlays of color create texture and intriguing shapes as past and present merge. Recreating both emotional and physical elements from the surroundings, I hope the viewer is always moved by the work," says the artist.

Sabre Esler's work covers figurative to landscape, cityscape and still life subjects. Her vivid palette, impasto textures and expressionist spirit result in energetic canvases that reflect a sense of joie de vivre. Esler's works are cutting-edge fresh, yet classically familiar. The artist, who is greatly influenced by the German expressionists, knows the importance of line and the energy and spontaneity it brings to a painting. "My goal is to connect emotionally with the viewer, through use of color, texture and form. The landscapes are more than a place, they symbolically show human nature's ability to place control on our environment, both textural and layered," she says.

Shaun MacDavid's paintings make use of scenes from life and imagination. She doesn't intend the viewer to see them as specific places or as a fixed narrative. Paintings are created to evoke feelings about memories, the almost dreamlike sense that comes from remembering places and people over time. "The final work contains the richness of many layers, much as the layers of memory and imagination live in our minds. My work often depicts scenes from my life and from the lives of others in places that I've lived," she said. "Most of my art includes an extensive amount of still life work, and much of it on a large scale. I like to describe the art as painterly and expressionistic."

Giovanni Casadei was born in Rome, Italy. He is an artist truly in love with light. Light gives form to the perfect objects he paints, but also deconstructs the objects and lets the

Clockwise: Sabre Esler, Giovanni Casadei, Wendy Martin, Teruko T. Wilde

Opposite page top: Shaun MacDavid