

The great southern artist is still making pictures of his homeland... and you might just find one in a tree.



"I am an American painter, an artist in the traditional sense," says West Fraser. "My paintings tend mostly toward documentary, in that the paintings depict certain places, and are naturalistic."

For over three decades, Fraser has been capturing the character, aesthetics and history of this "certain place" we call the Lowcountry.



"I was born into an old Southern heritage that has influenced my life's pursuit," he says. "I started painting as a youth, usually knee-deep in local marshes, and am today living as I dreamed then. I have had the good providence to continue this career for more than 30

years—molding my character, resolve, and defining my philosophy. Though I often travel elsewhere to paint other places, the majority of my work has been produced in the land I love and call home—the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia, amongst the draping moss and shore breezes encompassed by Atlantic beaches and sea island waterways."

Beaufort art lovers have an opportunity to view Fraser's work at the I. Pinckney Simons Gallery on Bay Street, where he is currently one of the regular exhibitors.

"The paintings at I. Pinckney are a continuum of my work capturing the spirit & sense of place that I have been painting for 34 years now," says Fraser. "It is all what I call my Portrait of The Lowcountry."

Some of these paintings were in Fraser's exhibition "A Native Son: Paintings by West Fraser" last spring at the Telfair Museum in Savannah. Fraser discussed his work at USCB around the same time, when he was the keynote speaker at the university's second annual "Celebrate the Arts" festival.

Fraser started out as a watercolor artist, but in the 1990s, his growing desire to paint directly from nature forced him to seek out a more flexible and adaptable medium, resulting in a switch to oil. Today, Fraser continues to work in oil, and alternates between plein air painting and studio work (sometimes combining the two). Fraser's paintings have been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows at museums and galleries throughout the country, and his work is held in the permanent collection of Telfair Museums, Morris Museum of Art, Gibbes Museum of Art, Greenville County Museum of Art, California's Laguna Art Museum, and many prominent private and corporate collections.

In recent years, Fraser's sense of gratitude – he's a successful working artist living the life he

West Fraser Branches Out

Written by Editor

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