

My Journey with Brush & Paint

It began some 50 years ago.

In college, starting out to become an architect, it only took a few life-drawing and one painting class to get me hooked. The opportunity to depict observations and emotions on a two-dimensional surface was all I suddenly wanted.

After graduating from Rhode Island School of Design in 1970, I wandered across the US in search of new images and inspirations. I found plenty, but I also could never quite set aside those old memories of my childhood in a war-torn Korea.

I was restless.

I was searching.

Searching for an anchor and a place to sustain me, physically and spiritually.

So I returned to the remote Outer Banks of North Carolina where I'd spent many a day as a teenager. Now, I was in familiar territory, and in the early 1970's this barrier island offered exactly what I craved .. unspoiled beauty, solitude and endless horizons.

I joined the many intrepid souls who made these islands their home, and I did my share of fishing & surfing, carpentry & gardening.

And ... I painted. Always painted.

Large-scale paintings and smaller ones from my **GRASS SERIES** emerged.

Impressionistic landscapes, inspired by the Outer Banks wetlands and, maybe to a lesser extent, by the rice paddies and wheat fields of my native Korea. These images developed into a **BUD SERIES**, inspired by the birth of my second son and my daily observations of new beginnings all around us. These last few years I've been working on a series of **EARTH VASE** paintings .. the simple vase being a universal symbol of comfort across the ages. Just like a landscape.

In between these series of paintings, I use a good amount of my studio time depicting a few local folks. They now live on canvas forever.

Just as I have these past many years, I will continue to follow the rise and setting of the moon & sun. I will continue to face the restless wind and walk the beaches with my grandchildren. And, all the while, I will observe the cycles of the seasons and continue to capture the feeling of this extraordinary place on canvas.

Rick Tupper

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