

Islands in the Puget Sound

17 FINE ART "AMERICANA" PAINTINGS OF SMALL BUSINESSES, RESORTS AND "HOME SWEET HOMES" • SAN JUAN ISLANDS, AND OTHER STUNNING ISLAND DESTINATIONS • ALPHABETICALLY



THE SAN JUANS • PRETTY PUBLIC PLACES • VACATION RESORTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES • ALPHABETICALLY BY LOCATION

LOPEZ ISLAND • TWO DESTINATIONS AND A "HOME SWEET VACATION HOME"

Flying Kites at Lopez Island (Edenwild Inn) ~ 4.2011

This was a revision of an earlier painting done in 1994. At that time, The Edenwild Inn was gray with white trim and owned by actor Tom Skerritt, whose on-screen movie credits included "Top Gun," "Steel Magnolias" and "A River Runs Through It," to name just a few. The retreat overlooked the harbor and offered accommodations and delectable gourmet meals in its award-winning restaurant. When the new owners took over the waterfront property, they gave the inn a coat of buttery yellow paint and added flags to the front of the building. Lopez Island was flat compared to the other San Juans, which has drawn cyclists of all degrees of expertise to load their bikes on ferries and head here to take advantage of the island's trails and the stunning views. Our bicycles parked behind the inn, the painting pictured my husband Doug with me and my sister Marilee flying kites on a brisk breezy day. **Highlight** - The kites flying above the pretty Edenwild Inn advertised the Inn's address.

Springtime Getaway at Lopez ~ 6.1994

In the early 1990s while I was friends with an EMT / Fire Chief in Everett, WA named Mike Lambert, For a few years, I made lots of friends who were woven into the close culture of his firefighter buddies and their wives. One of the couples I forged a friendship with was Darrell and Judy Jensen. They lived near Everett on the outside of Marysville in a huge old friendly farmhouse where they raised their family. Darrell and Judy also owned a charming ranch style place on Lopez Island - a great escape especially when the weather was warm and sunny. **Highlight** - As a gift for their kindness through thick and thin - and to thank them for a wonderful Summer weekend spent at their beloved Lopez Island getaway, I painted this artwork for Darrell's birthday.

Today, Two Mornings @ Always ~ 7.2001

This fine art was completed as a commissioned for a wonderful young couple who chose a truly special pastoral setting for their wedding. After much exploration, the two found a lovely rural setting on Lopez Island with a lake filled with pretty pink lily pads with a small picturesque rustic gazebo. It was so endearing, the couple chose it as the perfect spot for sharing their vows. They afternoon before their marriage, they decorated the gazebo with lots of huge colorful blossom-filled pots. This painting was a gift the couple gave each other. At their request, I finished the artwork well before their ceremony so they could use the image for their invitations - a memento for all of their guests and family. **Highlight** - The bride and groom cleverly thought up this unique name for their artwork!

ORCAS ISLAND • DEER HARBOR • ISLAND DESTINATION

Scott's Dream Day at Deer Harbor ~ 12.2008

This lovely Spring setting at Deer Harbor on Orcas Island in the San Juans hosted Brian and Christine Scott's wedding, May 19, 2001 - their dream day! Ribbons, blossoms and delicate vines threaded the whimsical gazebo and pots of pansies flank the pretty walkway - beautifully framing this very happy couple. Christine reached out to me in the late 2000s as she and her husband had plans to move to Pennsylvania as her position at Microsoft transferred her to the East Coast. She commissioned three pieces - beautiful memories she and her husband Brian wanted to savor throughout the years. Their wedding day was the first memory-filled piece, the second, their first home in Kirkland, WA and the third, their brick Federal-style two-story beauty in Downingtown, PA. **Highlight** - Some communication with Christine about these paintings took place after her move, but she was an absolute dream to work with - even all the way across the United States!

SAN JUAN ISLAND • ROCHE HARBOR RESORT • ALPHABETICALLY BY SEASON

SPRING AND SUMMER AT THIS MAGIC DESTINATION • INCLUDING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Afternoon at Afterglow Vista ~ 5.2004

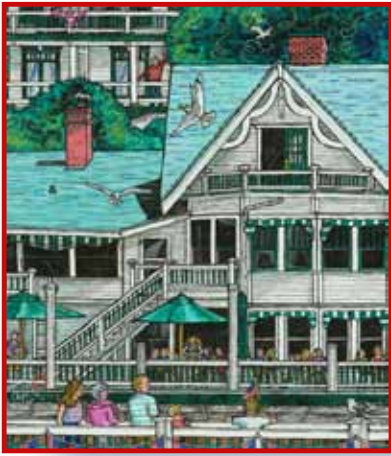
John McMillin, who founded the seaside village of Roche Harbor which once housed his lime quarries, factories and workers, built this memorial to his family in the forest behind the harbor in the early 1930s. The pillared mausoleum, with one column intentionally gapped, was designed using elements of the Masonic Order, the Bible, the Sigma Phi fraternity and McMillin's personal views on family. Chairs were part of the memorial actually functioned as crypts containing the remains of John McMillin, his wife and eldest son Fred. Afterglow Vista was originally planned to be McMillin's entire family's final resting place, but a rift between McMillin and his son Paul prevented his special vision from coming to conclusion. **Highlight** - For decades, this peaceful quiet setting has provided an inspiring walk for visitors through the lush forest that surrounds it.

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Dallying on the Deck at Roche ~ 8.2001

When I painted this fine art, it was the deck of the beautiful beloved Madrona Grill, the focal point of picturesque Roche Harbor Resort & Marina. The grill shared its spectacular view of the harbor and beyond with thousands of guests over the decades, especially on Independence Day when it was crowded with hundreds of watercraft in its legendary harbor. In the early 1900s, this was the private residence of John McMillin, who operated the lime quarries, kiln and processing plant that was once located throughout the resort's property. **Highlight** - I finished this portrait of the deck as a gift after a wonderful Independence Day celebration that our dear friend Brent Orrico made possible for my husband Doug and me.

Hotel de Haro ~ 10.2000



I painted this piece to draw attention to the beautiful blooms and lush flowering shrubbery in the Roche Harbor Sunken Garden across from historic Hotel de Haro. John S. McMillin built the white frame three-story structure to house dignitaries, important clients and other guests when the setting was operating as his successful lime kiln and processing plant during the first half of the 1900s. After McMillin's death, his son Paul sold all the property and buildings to the Neil Tarte family in the 1950s who went on to develop it into the Roche Harbor Resort & Marina. Hotel de Haro was one of the first important buildings the Tartes renovated. Still functioning when I created this artwork, it had hosted a number of memorable guests over the decades including President "Teddy" Roosevelt who made the considerable journey over land and sea when it was still McMillin's business. When the property became a resort, another frequent visitor was legendary actor John Wayne. **Highlight** - Hotel registers with the signatures of President T. Roosevelt and John Wayne were preserved for history buffs who visited the setting.

Morning Walk at Roche ~ 8.2000



Summer mornings at Roche Harbor have always been perfect time for a peaceful walk on the docks, board-walk, brick pathways - and especially through the gardens that flourished throughout this destination. I painted the retired John McMillin kiln factory building and filled it with waving flags from the U.S.A. and Canada as the harbor was very near the Canadian border and a port of entry. When the Neil Tarte family purchased the property from John McMillin's son Paul after his entrepreneurial father, they began developing it into a destination resort and marina, keeping the turn-of-the-century feel. They converted the residences, worker cabins, lime kiln factory building and other outbuildings into restaurants, shops and lodging - keeping the little church for weddings. Decades after the Tarte's original development, it was purchased by investors who added other retail buildings and cottages that blended with his original theme. When I painted the Lime Kiln Building, it had a green grocer on the east side of the first floor and a breakfast café on the west. The second floor was filled with boutiques to entice vacationers looking for mementos. **Highlight** - My nephew Michael Barton married his sweetheart Mikaila Gawryn in this garden in August 2013.

Our Lady of Good Voyage ~ 8.2000



This beautiful tiny Victorian clapboard church nestled into the hillside overlooking Roche Harbor on San Juan Island has always been a coveted setting for brides and grooms. I took a bit of poetic license when I completed its portrait, painting my husband Doug and my wedding party into this picturesque setting - and I've never regretted this stretch of my imagination! Embellished with arched leaded glass windows and other lovely decorative touches, it has been a delightful setting for many couples over the decades. In Springtime, the small garden that borders the church's front stairways blossomed like crazy with multi-colored tulips. Our Lady of Good Voyage was built by Roche Harbor founder and successful lime baron John S. McMillin as a place of worship for his family, visitors and his workers in the early 1900s when the property housed his thriving business. **Highlight** - Remarkably, the setting held the distinction of being the only privately owned Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Blessedly, when our friend Brent Orrico was married there, it was still was that denomination.

Roche Harbor Reverie ~ 7.2000



The focal point of Roche Harbor Resort and Marina), this once private residence of the village's founder John S. McMillin, became the signature Madrona Grill when the Neil Tarte family purchased the property from McMillin's son Paul and developed it into a destination resort for vacationers and boaters from the United States and Canada. In the early 1900s, the harbor had housed McMillin's very successful mines, lime kiln, processing plant, Hotel de Haro (for guests and clients), a small church and school as well as homes for all of his employees and their families. Tarte saved and restored most of the McMillin structures, and later new owners added other buildings, being careful to blend them with the setting's quaint feel. During the summer months, the resort became a hub of happy activity. **Highlight** - During the Summer months, the resort became a hub of happy activity. For decades on Independence Day, revelers crowded the restaurant's decks and dining room to enjoy the harbor view - feasting on delicious fare and watching the games on the shoreline below. Log rolling, anyone?

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Rolling Fun at Roche ~ 6.2003

The theme of this painting was Independence Day 20 years ago in the quaint seaside resort of Roche Harbor on San Juan Island. This scene is probably still a tradition today. Wild screams of excitement and laughter broke the silence of what would have been a just another quiet morning on Puget Sound's Roche Harbor. I painted kids of all ages, their parents - and pets at the annual Game Fest hosted on the resort's grassy hillside park below the camping cabins that once housed employees of the McMillins Lime Kiln business in the early 1900s. Youngsters engaged in egg-tossing, flour sack-racing, tug-of-war and many other competitions. Prizes were American flags, red, white and blue baseball caps, T-shirts and assorted patriotic kid-oriented goodies. *Highlight* - This artwork was inspired by a stay at a what was once an Orrico family vacation home a short walk west of the Roche Harbor Resort. Two Orrico kids - Christopher and Francesca participated in these games from the time they were young toddlers all the way through college years.

AUTUMN AND WINTER AT ROCHE HARBOR • INCLUDING CHRISTMASTIME ART



The Old Schoolhouse at Roche ~ 6.2004

In the early 1900s, Roche Harbor was a "company" town in the truest sense of the word. John S. McMillin's Roche Harbor Lime & Cement Company was located on remote San Juan Island in Puget Sound, so he built bunk houses for his single workers and one- and two-story cottages for the married ones, so that they could raise their families in the setting - and live near the factories and mines. He also erected a church, general store and post office, and installed power, water and telephone systems. This red schoolhouse overlooked the harbor's beach at the top of a grassy hill dotted with the little family cabins, welcoming the worker's children with the promise of a decent education. When the setting became part of the Roche Harbor Resort, the cabins and schoolhouse were opened as accommodations for guests.



The Old Schoolhouse at Roche ~ 6.2004

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Paul's Place at Roche ~ 5.2007

This Roche Harbor (RocheHarbor.com) garden scene pictured the residence where John McMillin's son Paul lived with his family during his tenure as manager of his father's business, the Roche Harbor Lime & Cement Company. In 1930, John moved his three-story cottage from its location adjacent to the sunken garden up the nearby slope in order to take advantage of the breathtaking harbor view. Workers accomplished this painstaking task inch-by-inch using both cribs and jacks - quite an engineering accomplishment for the time. Later when the house became part of the Roche Harbor Resort & Marina, guests frequently booked the top floor of the charming cottage as their honeymoon suite after the wedding celebration at one of the resort's garden setting or at the pristine Our Lady of Good Voyage Chapel. *Highlight* - My sister Peggy's son Michael and his bride Mikaila spent their honeymoon night here after their marriage in the garden and reception on the patio overlooking the outdoor fireplace.



Rearing Fire at Roche ~ 5.2012

Christmastime at Roche Harbor - I pictured my husband and me with friends singing carols and toasting our backsides in front of the blazing fire. When I visited Roche Harbor for the first time in 2000, the space in front of the fireplace was grass. When my nephew was married there several years after I finished this artwork, instead of a grassy area, it was paved into a large patio - thus the revision to the original painting. Decades ago, a huge stone fireplace was built by Roche Harbor founder John S. McMillin in what was once the banquet court adjacent to his Hotel de Haro. Frequently the setting for his sumptuous barbecues and banquets, he had the masonry inscribed with "Friendships fires are always burning." The walkway leading from the hotel to the Roche Harbor pier bid his visitors adieu with the Scottish phrase, "God be wi' ye till we meet again" - a fitting Holiday greeting!



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WHIDBEY ISLAND, PUGET SOUND • "HOME SWEET HOME" ON THE 4TH OF JULY

S'mores @ Sparklers on Puget sound ~ 11.2011

The idyllic, tranquil vacation home this family christened "The Beach House" turned into a BIG playground for all generations of their extended family every Independence Day. Grandparents, children, siblings, cousins and friends gathered to enjoy the idyllic seaside setting and feast on food and drink, compete in games and shoot off fireworks for hours in honor of the beloved holiday. Children spent hours combing the beach in search of sand dollars, sea glass and driftwood - seaside treasures to bring back future memories of the day. They're pictured in the foreground of this piece roasting marshmallows, making s'mores and waving sparklers. *Highlight* - Flags fluttered - reminding all how proud they were to be Americans.

VASHON ISLAND, PUGET SOUND • "HOME SWEET HOME" ON HALLOWEEN

Fairy Tale Trick or Treating ~ 10.1996

Celebrating with a fairy-tale theme is the hostess of the house, Donna Fale Larson, dressed as a glamorous "Rapunzel with her long blond braid trailing behind her." I pictured here with her daughter, Katherine, as "Alice in Wonderland" in the robin's egg blue dress and white pinafore. Other trick-or-treaters (L-R) were my sister, Marilee who played "Sleeping Beauty," her God-daughter Aubrey, as "Snow White," and me as "Cinderella" in a shabby tattered frock dusted with fireplace ashes. Donna's stunning log-style home was part of a compound with a fully functioning garage for her airline pilot husband who loved tinkering with vintage automobiles), offices for the couple, and a gazebo for al fresco meals outdoors to take advantage of the property's amazing view. The main house overlooked Puget Sound and the Seattle skyline from its cliff-top perch on Vashon Island. *Highlight* - Donna Fale was one of my sister's Marilee's college roommates at the University of Washington who stayed friends for decades after graduation.



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