

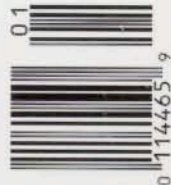
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Keith Martin Johns © 2008

Paradise

A detailed painting of a dirt path winding through a tropical landscape. The path is flanked by tall grasses and various palm trees, including several cabbage palms. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and nostalgic.

*These cabbage palms
along a desolate path are
reminders of a simpler time
the artist calls Paradise Lost.*

Lost

Keith Martin Johns



In Gates of Splendor, the entrance to a private school is embellished by a poinsettia tree in bloom.

Keith Martin Johns wishes to preserve Florida's natural beauty and heritage and believes that he can help to do so through his art. "Natural beauty," he says, "may or may not be perceived by the eye, but to respond to it through painting is seeing it with the heart and soul." He feels that paintings are reflective of a greater reality than our own and that we live not in a disconnect, but in a present reality of such discovery that is called inspiration; and, that is what he most enjoys about being an artist.

A fourth-generation Floridian, Keith has been painting throughout the state of Florida for almost three decades to create hundreds of images, many of which have been published as limited edition fine art prints. His work is in numerous private and corporate collections and specific pieces are on display at the University of Tampa, St. Luke's Eye Institute, St. Petersburg College and many hospitals and offices.

After graduating from Trinity College of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies, Keith became the director of missions at a local church. His travels took him to remote villages in Africa, India, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Italy and South America. These experiences have helped him to further appreciate his own culture.

In The Uprising, Johns has created a landscape that includes clouds in hues of orange and violet.



*In Rocky Ridge, the rocky shoreline
and emerald water lay beneath a summer sky.*





Keith Martin Johns has caught the sun, as it begins to rise and make its way across this marsh, into the blanket of clouds above.



This Great Blue Heron hunts for food, as the sunset is reflected in the water.

Keith Martin Johns © 2006



Johns' painting of water lilies in a pond demonstrates his ability to capture the beauty of our natural world.

During twenty years of traveling through Florida in outdoor art show venues, accumulating multiple awards, Keith now showcases his work in galleries, museums and in private showings. His heart's desire is to help preserve Florida's natural beauty and heritage through the visual arts. His art often includes bodies of water and birds, as the intrinsic beauty of nature is his inspiration. As Florida continues to expand through development, Keith's paintings will become a historical legacy of Old Florida. With an eye on this heritage, Keith is planning various journalistic painting projects, such as "Painting on the Florida Trails," "From Gill Nets to Fly

Fishing," "Cracker Cowboys and Cows," and "Romancing the Rivers of Florida." He mentors younger professional artists in order to pass on this passion to the next emerging generation, in hopes that they will develop the same artistic feelings he has for our state's history and heritage. ■■■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Artist Keith Martin Johns can be contacted at his studio in Holiday, (727) 942-3681.