

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red coat and a white shawl, sits on a wooden cart. On her head is a large, detailed model of a three-masted sailing ship with red sails. The cart is filled with several large, dark, spherical objects, some of which are orange. The background is a misty, outdoor setting with tall grasses and trees.

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR



RICK FLEURY

A new focus

Landscape artist Rick Fleury is known for his minimalistic paintings of the Cape Cod coast. The works, primarily depicting the meeting of the land, sky and sea, are inviting and atmospheric renderings of areas that the artist has often visited. In his upcoming exhibit at Addison Art Gallery, Fleury will present new paintings that could read as a “best of.”

“I’m going back and revisiting my favorite paintings and doing them again with a fresh perspective, a new approach, a new focus,” says Fleury. “It’s fascinating; the take away is that they are the constant and I’m the variable. The places don’t change that much; the artist and the interpretation changes.”

For this body of work Fleury also has found that he is pushing the paintings to new levels. “I’ve been reaching to just find what’s in there. How can I improve? What can I do? I’m constantly reaching,” he says. “I’m at this particular point



in my evolution that seems to be a bit more pronounced. I'm riding a new wave and I've come into a new zone, a new awareness."

Viewers of Fleury's work will notice an overall enhancement of color and perspectives. For instance, while Fleury uses the same color palette as in his previous works, there is a vibrancy and boldness. "It's just about extraction and intensity and saturation and pulling that color," he explains.

The perspectives vary depending on the intention of each work; however, each has a point of entry and focus. "I've definitely been changing out placement, which I am always very conscious of. In any given painting I like the viewer to feel like they are in the painting," Fleury describes. "The placement of the viewer, to me, is very important. It gives a sense of entry and presence of the viewer and involvement."

An example is his painting *Sentries*, which places the viewer in a spot where the focus leads to the meeting of the ocean and the dunes.

Another component in the new pieces is the growing realism in the skies. According to Fleury, the skies have more variety in their feelings. There are some pieces with cumulus clouds, evoking calm summer days where time passes slowly. Others have more strikes of light and movement.

The exhibit will take place June 28 to July 10 with a reception on opening night from 5 to 7 p.m. ●



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- 1
Surf, oil on copper, 5 x 7"
- 2
Integrity, oil on canvas,
36 x 36"
- 3
Sentries, oil on copper,
6 x 18"