



A Noble Pursuit

The Sierra Club describes John Muir (1838-1914) as “farmer, inventor, shepherd, naturalist, explorer, writer and conservationist.” Born in Scotland, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1849. His explorations, writings and influence earned him the appellation “Father of the National Parks.” In 1892 he and his followers founded the Sierra Club to, as he said, “do something for wildness and make the mountains glad.” He wrote, “There is a love of wild Nature in everybody, an ancient mother-love ever showing itself whether recognized or no, and however covered by cares and duties.”

Artist **Ken Salaz** says, “In an age where the ideas of having a noble pursuit are almost vanishing, I feel it is imperative to the world today and humanity that the creation of artwork that strives toward harmony, truth and beauty be brought into existence without apology. To obtain this, I approach each canvas with the heart of a poet, the mind of a philosopher, the hands of a surgeon and the vision of an eagle. The paintings are created to evoke in the viewer the questions of who we are, why we are here and how we can live for the betterment of humanity. In order to create landscapes that aren't simply copies of nature, but

rather the poetic expressions of fleeting moments...I deeply believe it is the function of masterful artwork to be a vehicle that elevates the viewer and all of humanity to a state of transcendent certainty that beauty is eternal and ever-present.”

In a time when the love of nature is “covered by cares and duties” and corporations, aided by the government, actively plunder its resources and despoil its beauty, artists continue to remind us of its beautiful simplicity and its splendor as well as the imperative to conserve it.

Salaz's recently published book, *Landscapes in Oil*, extols traditional land-

scape painting and includes the work of contemporary masters of the genre.

Rehs Contemporary Galleries in New York celebrates the release of the book in the exhibition *A Noble Pursuit: The Majestic Landscapes of Ken Salaz*, June 8 through 28, featuring the paintings of Salaz and some of his contemporary peers.

In *Annunciation - Spring Sunrise*, Salaz demonstrates that the transformative experience of being in nature can happen in a simple landscape, far from the roaring sea or the soaring mountains. The rising sun begins to burn off the mist and will eventually turn the soft atmospheric scene into one of clear detail. The title alone refers to the biblical story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary to announce the coming of something miraculous.

Joseph McGurl grew up on a peninsula on the perimeter of Boston Harbor. In his *Boston Harbor Islands Project*, he explores the 26 islands and surrounding area. A master of luminous light he turns to the strong light of midday in *The Boston Harbor Islands Project, Eroding Cliff at Prince Head*. On a calm day he illustrates the effects of centuries of storms that have eroded the cliff and have deposited timbers from man-made structures along the coast.

Salaz comments, "These paintings are a mirror reflection of our joys, sorrows and triumphs as human beings, and they strive to evoke the finest in the viewer. I hope these works are as feeding to your mind, heart and soul as they have been to mine during my participation in their creation. May they inspire you to seek your own noble pursuit." ●

Rehs Contemporary Galleries Inc.

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1
Ken Salaz, *Annunciation*
– *Spring Sunrise*, oil
on canvas, 32 x 48"

2
Joseph McGurl, *The*
Boston Harbor Islands
Project, Eroding Cliff
at Prince Head, oil
on panel, 11 x 14"

3
Edward Minoff,
Storm Surge, oil on
panel, 12 x 16"

4
William Davis,
Late Hours Fishing,
oil on panel, 8 x 10¼"



2



3



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