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SUN and SURF

Hammock Dunes • Ocean Hammock • Hammock Beach • Grand Haven • Wild Oaks
Yacht Harbor Village • Palm Coast Plantation • The Villages at Matanzas Shores
Sea Colony • Cinnamon Beach



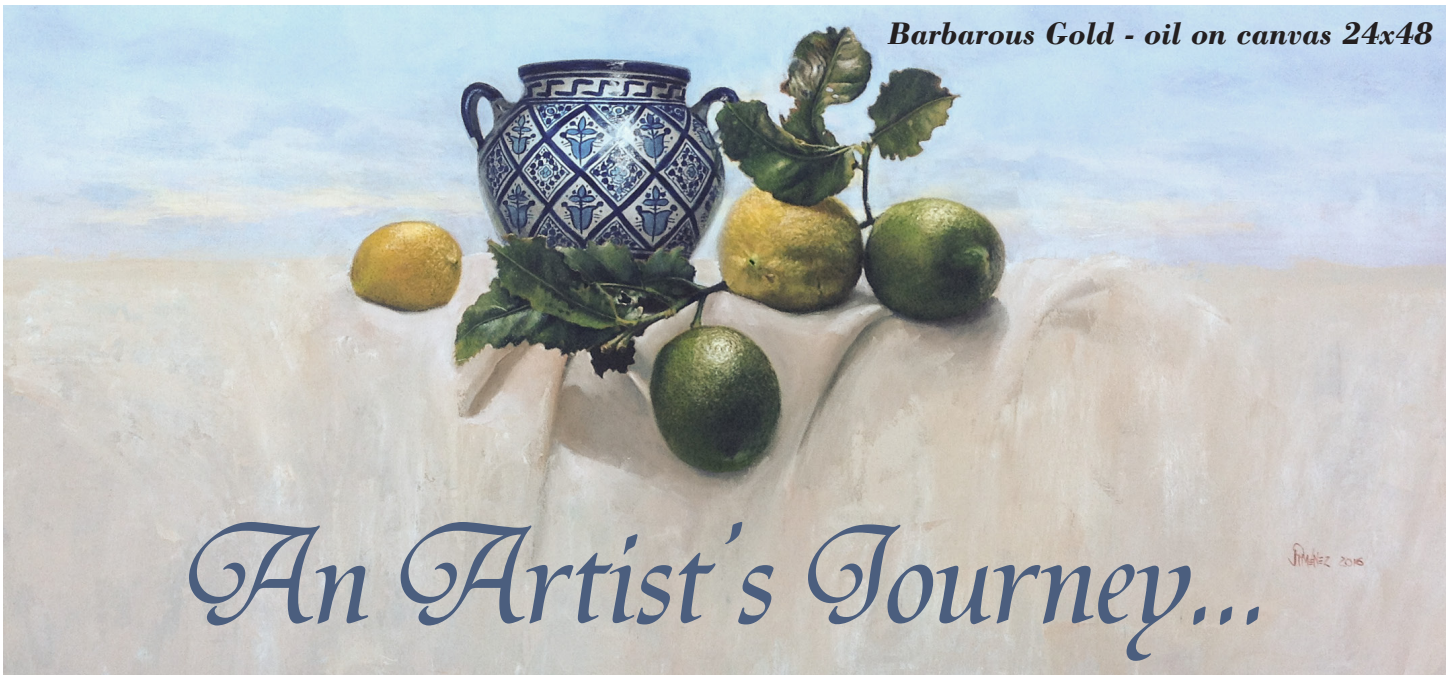
Featuring Local Artist
Paulo Jimenez

"I want to bring the outside world into a room and illuminate it."

Paulo Jimenez



Orange Delight - oil on canvas 20x20



An Artist's Journey...

by Jillian Anderson

I caught up with local artist Paulo Jimenez at Ocean Art Gallery this month to find out "What's Art Got To Do With It?"

JL: Everyone here today is really enjoying your array of paintings displayed so beautifully at Ocean Art Gallery. Is this your home away from home?

PJ: We moved to this part of the state in 2012 and I consider it my home.

JL: Can you discuss your early background as an artist? Did you study art formally at an early age?

PJ: I was born in Costa Rica and at an early age my family and I moved to Antofagasta, a city right between the Atacama Desert and the Pacific Ocean. I can recall a particular moment when I was in third or fourth grade being in awe watching one of my friends be able to draw battles and soldiers with such ease. I was so inspired and from that day on, never stopped. In retrospect, I was probably also motivated because we only had a black-and-white TV as home entertainment.

JL: Could you talk a little bit about your influences?

PJ: I read all kinds of comic books as a kid. Later in life, I discovered the Old Masters. I didn't know who Michelangelo was until my late teens. I decided then that I wanted to paint like the Old Masters, which came hand in hand with a lesson in humility. Later in life, I graduated with a BFA from the University of Hartford and I met those Old Masters in person, through my professors.

JL: Can you describe the time when you first realized that creating was something you absolutely had to do?

PJ: The first time I went up a scaffold and painted my first mural. The realization of being able to create something bigger than myself was eye-opening for me.

JL: As far as subject matter, what has influenced you to paint the subjects that you paint?

PJ: I truly admire environmental artists. I love Andy Goldsworthy's work and I wish I could be as embedded in my work as he is in his. I am also influenced by Morandi's austerity and Vermeer's luminescence. I could mention so many more.

JL: What inspires you; what really makes you tick? What are your reasons for your answer?

PJ: It varies from time to time; however, there is a constant in my artwork and that is the raw, natural world. As I work in a new series of landscapes, I see the landscape always overpowering the human presence. My still lifes are also constantly in photosynthesis... (Laughs)

JL: What do you look for in a good painting?

PJ: A soul. Nothing factory made; I want to connect with another human being. Sincerity is also an important condition.

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Paulo Jimenez

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JL: What kind of creative patterns, routines or rituals do you have?

PJ: I usually rise at about 4:30 AM and meditate for 45 minutes. Then I run three miles and make breakfast for everyone. Are you kidding me? Life is too unpredictable for rigid expectations. Most of the time I am improvising. I do drink tea every morning, though.

JL: What's your favorite thing you've ever created?

PJ: It is always the painting that I'm working on now. Sorry for the cliché, but it is true in my case.

JL: What are you trying to communicate with your art?

PJ: Just like Van Gogh, I want to give the stars at night, a bountiful bouquet of flowers, bring the outside world into a room and illuminate it. The wind, the sun, the smell of the ocean. Go back to some kind of origin. Cave paintings accomplished this so brilliantly.

JL: Tell us more about your current direction as an artist.

PJ: Right now I am working on a series of paintings that I called "Fisherman Tales". I embellish my landscapes, add new things, create stories and exaggerate what's beautiful and wonderful. I am also working on a commissioned mural at a residence in New Smyrna Beach, a commissioned portrait and the classes at the gallery, which are always so much fun.

JL: What is the best piece of advice you have been given?

PJ: Everything is in the mind.

JL: If you could call yourself 20 years ago and had 30 seconds, what would you say?

PJ: "Risk more."



Paulo Jimenez is an accomplished fine artist, muralist and art teacher residing in Daytona Beach, FL. His work can be acquired through Ocean Art Gallery at 206 Moody Blvd. (SR 100), Flagler Beach, FL 32136, via email at Paulo@artdetails.com or through his website www.artdetails.com.