



"Searching for Saints," oil, 26" × 30"

BOLD COLORS AND VIBRANT LYRICS

Painter Daniel Bayless captures the light.

BY SARA FORD

There are those moments, those quiet moments when foghorns sleep, rocked easily by a gentle sea, sparkling under a perfect sky. Small boats nearby, safe in the harbor, moan and tug at their moorings, their lullabies as reassuring as the lyrical lapping of each rising swell.

There are those moments, those quiet moments when a viewer experiences the intensity, the emotion of a work of art so grand that his soul is still. Beauty surrounds and absorbs him.

There are those moments, those quiet moments when shafts of light illuminate the

graceful lines of a perfect interior, when light enters magnificent windows. The space is balanced, the color vibrant.

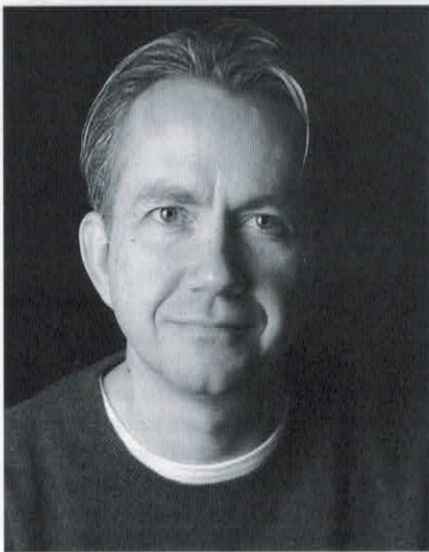
Those are the moments that painter Daniel Bayless captures. Like the great impressionists of the nineteenth century, Bayless chronicles the light: the subtle sen-

sations, the ephemeral particles that engage the senses and the drama.

As a result, his bold colors and vibrant lyrics explode with life. "I want to evoke not just a feeling, but my personal charge. It is not enough to capture a subject; I want to make it totally my own," Bayless says. "The vitality of color, the energy of the relationship of the viewer and the subject, whether it's a vibrating, sunny landscape or a still, controlled interior; those are the messages that are important to me."

Before moving to San Francisco, Bayless lived in Taos, where he spent considerable time out of doors capturing the light that creates magic in the canyons, mountains, and gardens of northern New Mexico. Now his journey is inward. "I love painting outside, but the space is different here," Bayless explains. "That's a blessing in disguise. It forced me to go inward to look beyond what's in front of me. I'm interpreting my surroundings in a more thoughtful, personal way."

His subject matter has changed as well. "Searching For Saints," one of several paintings in the "Gallery Series," undertaken after a visit to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, is an example of a new depth. "Introducing figures into my work gives it a completely different narrative," Bayless observes. Combining what he learned in New Mexico with the techniques developed in California has allowed him to be more creative. "I'm having a lot more fun with my art."



Daniel Bayless' paintings are shown at Alexandra Stevens Gallery of Fine Art, 820 Canyon Road, across from the public parking lot. Open daily. (505) 988-1311. www.alexandrastevens.com.



"Breeze," oil, 22" x 20"



"Summer Light," oil, 22" x 24"