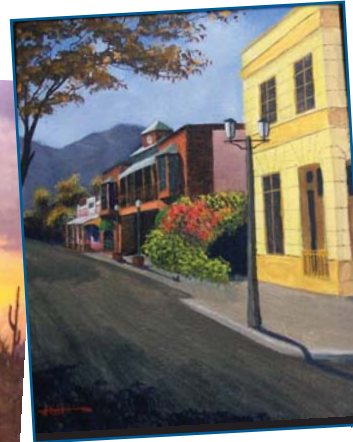


## The Artist's Corner



By Sandra Shrader

Taking a look at John G. Heinrichs' paintings is like being on a vacation where your cell phone, Blackberry and laptop computer were purposely left in a suitcase at home.

"I always attempt to provide a feeling of relaxation in a visual sense," said the Temecula artist who loves to paint seascapes and desert scenes. "I try to create some kind of a visual treat, and to let the viewer's mind fill in the details."

The meditative atmosphere of his pieces likely arises from Heinrichs' interest—late in life—in fine art. A "slide rule-to-computer" engineer by trade, he is both humbled by his gift for painting and proud of how he has arrived at his current level of skill.

"I've studied things like color theory and how to make light an integral part of my work," said Heinrichs, adding that he has a background in graphics, studying to be an architect when he was younger, and after that an illustrator/draftsman for the Navy.

"But now I keep my paintings "hand-oriented" rather than having a more technical style," he explained. "And no sharp edges, only soft edges. It did take me some time to learn to not use sharp edges."

Mostly self-taught through workshops and a few selected mentors, Heinrichs takes his cue from Impressionist master Claude Monet, working with "the illusion of detail" rather than superrealism, and he works with a limited palette, especially on his seascapes which tend to be as vibrant as a sunset in paradise or as muted as a walk on California beach.

"I really love the sea, and I really wanted to learn how to paint translucent waves of water," said Heinrichs, who uses only alarizon crimson, phthalo or ultramarine blue and cadmium yellow for seascapes. "I love painting seascapes in places like Hawaii because horizon is so uncluttered with mountains, and the water is a unique shade of blue-green. Those places really lend themselves to my style."

But Heinrichs appreciates the vast solitude of the desert too, and there is an earnestness to his brush strokes and color use that invites viewers to pause and reflect on those arid landscapes as well.

The artist, who paints in acrylics, oils and occasionally water colors, also adds a heaping dose of sincerity to his paintings, and that is what shines through on the canvas.

"It doesn't matter if my inspiration comes from photos, memory, or some sketches I've done on-site," he said with a wide smile. "There isn't a painting that I have painted that I haven't thoroughly enjoyed doing."

Several of Heinrichs' paintings are on display at The Old Town Gallery at 42031 Main Street, Suite C, in Old Town Temecula. His work can also be viewed at [www.artist-jgh.com](http://www.artist-jgh.com).

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