

# ARTIST PROFILE

Edward Cella Art + Architecture:

## *Water Mirrors by Rick Stich*

By **ANDRIA WATSON** / CASA

**N**OSTALGIC REFLECTIONS of life on the water and a return

to balance is the theme for *Water Mirrors* by Rick Stich, on display at Edward Cella Art and Architecture Gallery through August 10th.

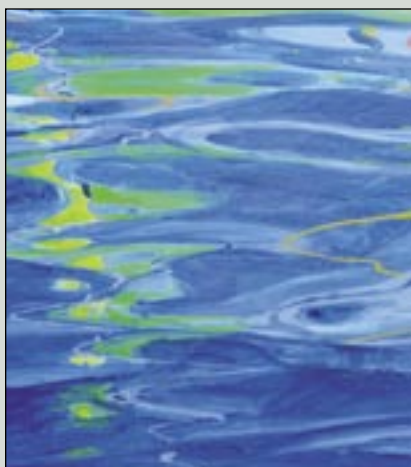
“Almost everyone you or I know is calmed by the effects of water. When most people take vacations, there is a good chance water is near by,” Stich shared. “The pieces in the show are my reflections and contemplations with water that bring balance to my life.”

With vivid color, the exhibit investigates the symbolic, fluid, and reflective nature of water with large-format abstract paintings.

“Most of the paintings in the show have been done in the past year or two, but they’re studies I’ve been working on for several years,” Stich explained. “The 18 acrylic pieces in the exhibit are of my experiences being on the water.”

Born in Newport Beach in 1947, Stich was immediately drawn to the art world and the water-world. An avid surfer with an innate desire to become an artist, Stich began painting coastal scenes and documenting his interactions with the elements.

“While in college at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, and San Diego State University, I tried my hand at Pre-med, but my path to art was unavoidable,” Stich added.



*Water Mirror #100 (Detail)* by **Rick Stich**. Acrylic on Tyvec, 2006.



*Water Mirror, #08-4* by **Rick Stich**. Acrylic on linen 36 x 60"

*Water Mirrors* is Rick Stich's first exhibition with Edward Cella Art and Architecture Gallery, and it draws upon the artist's 30 year career of exhibiting professionally in Southern California.

“This show is a maturation of Stich's style and a sensibility of color and light which is taken to a new and different level,” shared owner Edward Cella. “This is his opportunity to become even more complex.”

With swirling, gestural brush strokes, color is the method by which Stich

expresses the intermingling of light, reflection, and the atmospheric effects of the sea using forms and patterns seen both below and above the water.

Stich also teaches several Adult Education art classes including one on Mondays at the Cancer Center by Cottage Hospital. “I was invited to teach there ten years ago,” he shared. “I enjoy it very much because the creativity helps bring the patients back to life. I'm happy to be able to give them that.”

Stich has had solo exhibitions at the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, L.A. Louver Gallery, and Ruth Shaffner Gallery. His paintings are held in numerous private and corporate collections including Bank of America, Eli Broad Foundation, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

In 1977 he developed a process whereby he extracted pigments from soil. With this natural medium he produced a number of small-scale paintings that focused on nature's organic forms and shapes.

Edward Cella Art and Architecture is located at 10 E. Figueroa St, Ste 3, and is open Tu through Su, 11-5pm. For information, call 962-5900, or visit [www.edwardcella.com](http://www.edwardcella.com).



**Rick Stich**