

Robert Paul Foley @ Frameworks & Caruso-Woods Gallery

Carte Blanche

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

PAINTING IS MORE THAN A CREATIVE EXPRESSION for painter Robert Paul Foley. It's sheer freedom.

"I have all these things going on in my head, and painting gives me a sense of freedom and release," said Foley, who is celebrating his second solo show at the Frameworks & Caruso-Woods Gallery through August 29th. "It just feels better on canvas than it does in my head."

Growing up in Somerville, Massachusetts, Foley attended a special art program which allowed him to study painting while still in high school. One of ten gifted and talented teens selected for the program, Foley spent the school day studying



Robert Foley

art and art history, developing different techniques including sketching and watercolor in addition to regular high school curriculum. "I can remember liking to draw as early as sixth grade," he said. "But I was absolutely

fascinated by the closet of drawing supplies—all the crayons and paints."

Foley graduated from the program with a portfolio that could be used to get a job or admitted to an art school. He attended Wentworth Institute of Technology and

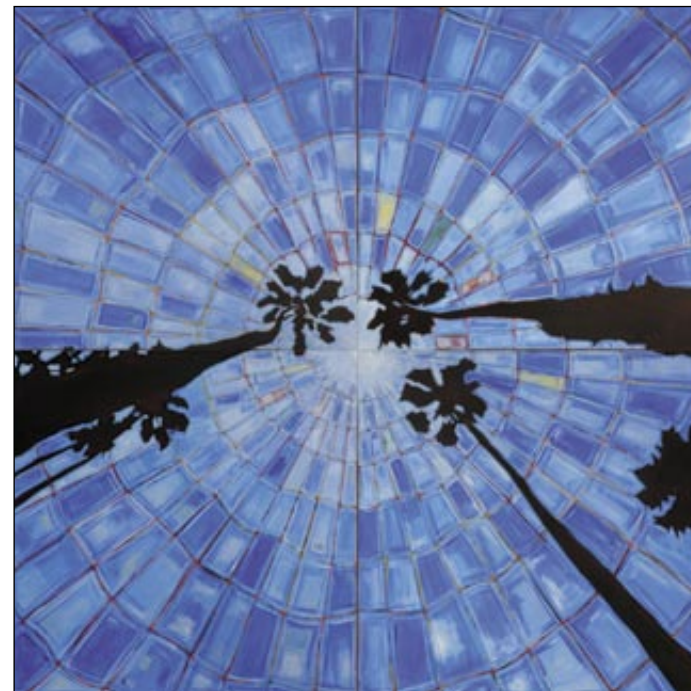
studied architectural drawing. Foley currently works for Don Nulty AIA, Inc as a project manager. "I like designing buildings. It's neat to see something you've drawn come to life," he said. "But there're so many restrictions. With painting, I can do whatever I want. The sense of freedom I have is great."

Foley came to California 21 years ago to pay a visit to his brother and never left. With the support and encouragement of his wife, Foley picked up painting again about ten years ago and has

been painting more and more seriously for the past five years. Oil is his medium of choice, as Foley finds the range of color is richer than acrylics. He finds inspiration in nature, especially in how the sun reflects on things, and through music.

"I like to create a painting that captures someone's attention," he said. "I use layers and depth in textures to keep a viewer's attention, so that the more you look at it, the more you see."

One painting in the show, *Palm*, was conceived while relaxing at the park. "It's an interesting perspective, laying down; you don't have to concentrate on anything else except what you see," he said. "I wanted to paint that feeling of how relaxing that can be." Although not the largest of the nine pieces included in the show (the largest is 5' x 18'), *Palm* is a formidable 8' x 8'. "I like the presence of big paintings," he said. "They evoke an emotion in the viewer just in terms of the size. It surrounds you more than you surround it."



Palm (96" x 96") by Robert Paul Foley



Wave by (30" x 40") Robert Paul Foley

The Frameworks & Caruso-Woods Gallery is located at 813 Anacapa St. Hours are 10 to 5pm, Tues through Fri, and 11 to 3pm, Sat. For more information, call 965-1812 or visit www.carusowoods.com.