

Artist wins national recognition



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Photos by Mike Valeri

SouthCoast artist Mike Mazer has received national recognition for his watercolor interpretation of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

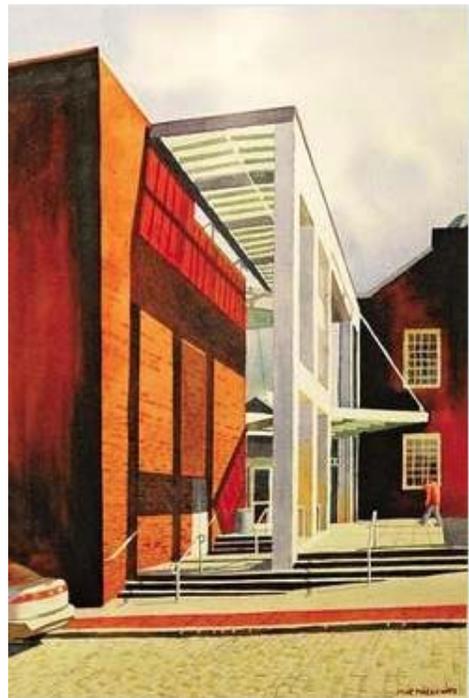
Titled simply "Whaling Museum," the painting was recognized in the 2007 Paint the Parks Competition, sponsored by PaintAmerica, a non-profit artists organization.

Mr. Mazer's work was featured at the New Bedford Art Museum from September through December 2006, in conjunction with the "Masters of Watercolors" exhibition. In approximately 40 paintings, the Mattapoisett artist depicted what he considered historically or architecturally interesting scenes of New Bedford. The whaling museum was among those scenes.

The retired cardiologist spends much of his time pouring his heart out through his paintbrush. Often choosing the not-so-ordinary view of very ordinary subjects, Mr. Mazer focuses on shapes, light and shadows, using those elements to create a design.

"It isn't the actual object that stimulates me to paint it," Mr. Mazer explained. "What, in my mind, I see, is an image that I can make an interesting design or composition out of, how the light affects the subject matter to create a form or three-dimensionality.

The same applies to the painting of the whaling museum. Rather than choosing the image most people see when they think of the New Bedford landmark, Mr. Mazer chose the



side view from William Street.

"That painting is not really a painting of the museum, per se, but it's a painting, to me, that shows an interesting design," Mr. Mazer said. "This is my interpretation of what excited me about the museum."

Mr. Mazer's work is on display at the New Bedford Public Library, Tabor Academy in Marion and the Marion Art Center, as well as in a number of national exhibits. He has been featured in "Splash 9: Watercolor Secrets," a book representing 100 of today's best watercolor artists, and two of his paintings have been chosen for "Splash 10."

Mr. Mazer received one of only four prizes awarded at the Taos National Watermedia Exhibition in Taos, N.M., for a piece called "Mirror."

The majority of Mr. Mazer's work shows his fascination for the waterfront. Salt marshes, coastal scenes, boats in the harbor and commercial fishermen at work are common themes in his artwork.

"I do landscapes and I do portraits, but I tend to instinctively like the marine-type subjects," Mr. Mazer said.

"I really try to paint only those things that stimulate me, that give me an emotional response."

Mr. Mazer has served as president of the New England Watercolor Society, and he played a key role in developing an art gallery for the group at in Emmanuel Church in Boston.

Mr. Mazer retired from cardiology in 1997 and has been painting full time for 10 years.

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