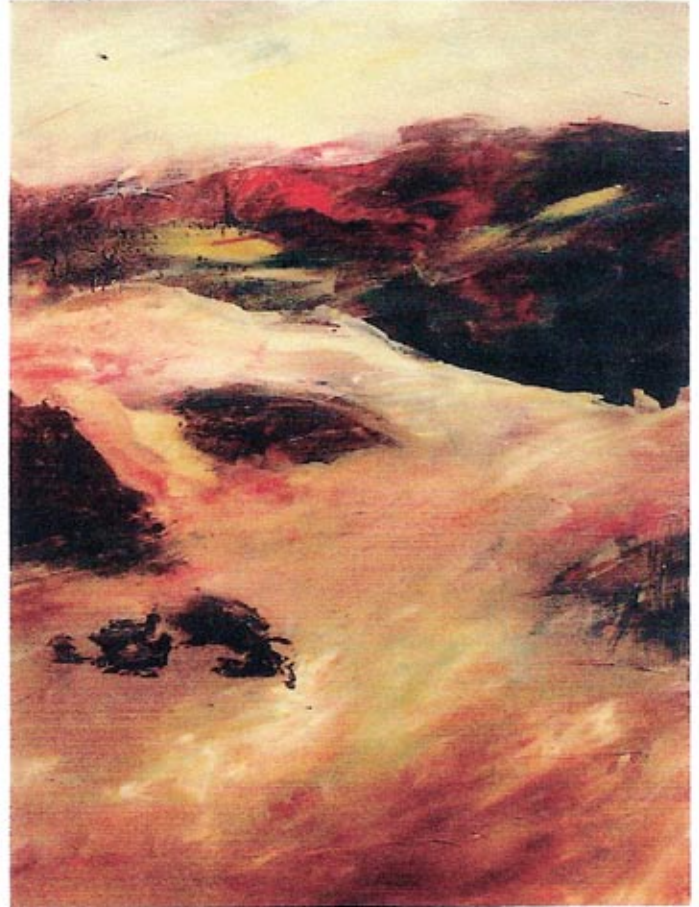


Coast Lines » ARTS



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

'Two Passions'

Artist

Christopher Mathie, Port Orchard, Wash.

See It

Mathie's work is displayed through June 27 at Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, 354 N. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 949-497-5442. www.marionmeyergallery.com. To see more of his paintings, go to www.orangecoastmagazine.com/mathie.

BACKGROUND

For an artist inspired by water, it's not surprising that Mathie describes his ideal painting process as a "state of flow." "When I'm really painting, every stroke of the brush seems to make the right mark. A designer once said to me, 'Get out of your own way,' meaning allow the process to just happen. And when I do this, the work is good."

CREATION

Mathie works fast, creating a textured base with gesso primer and adding colors and shapes with successive layers of acrylics. But his intuitive method doesn't come without prep work. After the paint has dried from the initial sitting, Mathie studies photos of the location he's painting, looks at art books, and listens to classical music as he finishes the canvas.

INSPIRATION

A longtime resident of the Puget Sound area, Mathie wants his work to capture the essence of living by the water. "There are a lot of incredible painters who depict this in a realistic way; my intention is to stylize the seascape into something more like poetry. But my greatest hope is that one can sense my true delight in being creatively alive."
—Anastacia Grenda