

# Drama on the Wall

April is the month of Dramatic Presentations, Dramatic People and Dramatic Paintings.

by Millie Wilcox

The month of April is truly a dramatic month in this writer's opinion. Not only do we have dramatic landscapes by Peggy Everett, we also have dramatic people arriving, such as Comer Jennings, a noted Atlanta artist about whom I have written many times. His work is collected throughout the United States and Europe for the drama it creates on any wall as well as the magical colors he depicts in his spring flowers. Comer will feature flowers that bloom on St. Simons and Sea Island during the Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk Weekend beginning May 2nd. His small and large masterpieces appeal to our imagination and create an aura of charming nostalgia. Comer's path has crossed my own many times in our lives, as we both lived in New York during the 50's when he was in advertising and I was in the fashion business. Comer had his dream come true when

he moved to Atlanta and became one of the outstanding portrait artists of the South. He also received accolades for capturing on canvas his magical flora and fauna. (Figures 1 & 2)

Incidentally, he Comer once told me he was glad I moved to St. Simons as moving me 10 times in New York had been a little stressful. When I lived in New York, most Southerners moved whenever they changed jobs in order to avoid the suburbs.

Drama on the wall is important because original paintings on the wall speak to us. Antiques such as sofas, chairs etc. are important, but they do not face us, as does artwork on the wall. We want drama, whether it

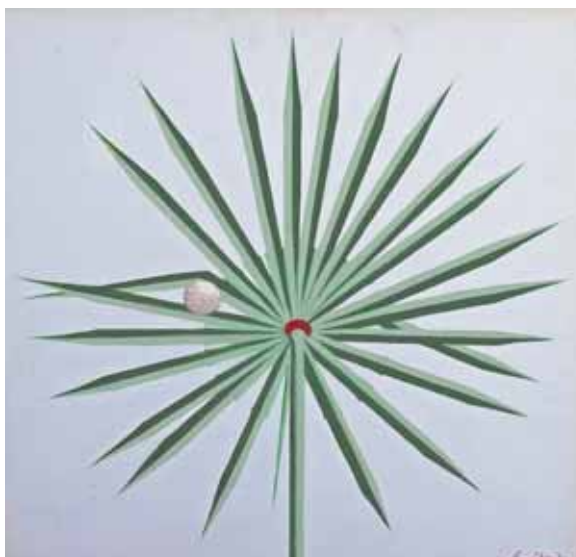


Figure 1 Dramatic Palmetto with golf ball by noted artist Comer Jennings. Comer will be the highlight of a May exhibit featuring his small and large floral masterpieces, as a part of the Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk Weekend.



Figure 2 Spring Daffodil by Comer Jennings. Another dramatic spring flower to be a part of the Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk Weekend. Comer epitomizes drama in his artwork.

be in the form of portraits, still lifes or contemporary modern masters. This is what makes a room sing.

Colonel Alfred Simson comes to mind when I speak of drama. Of all of the friends I have known and still know today, Alfred is one of the most interesting as he has a philosophy with which he is so comfortable. He loves a mansion, home or plantation to sing with original art and antiques. He is an academic collector of fine original paintings who truly appreciates the traditional classical school of art - but certainly not the impressionists and post impressionists. As

you can imagine, we have lively debates on this subject! His keen appreciation for the finer things in life does not go unnoticed. He is an engaging conversationalist and a Napoleona aficionado with interesting friends from Palm Beach to Newport to Paris. He is an extremely talented classical artist whose historic paintings hang in many public and private collections. His home in Newport, Rhode Island is filled with Napoleon paintings, antiques and memorabilia, as he is a charter member of the Napoleon Society. I was situated in the Napoleon room upon

visiting him one summer and got to know Napoleon quite well. Alfred loves St. Simons and Sea Island and makes an annual trip here every year. It is such a privilege to know such a charismatic Southern gentleman; I look forward to our reunion each year. He is so comfortable as a friend and "in his own skin" as someone said recently. Whether shucking oysters at a Plantation Oyster Roast in Glynn County or entertaining countesses and opera singers in Palm Beach or Newport, he is a man for all seasons, (Figure 3) who sees the world through his creative mind -- something unex-



Figure 3 Colonel Alfred Simson, international art collector and artist travels the world over where he enjoys meeting new and old acquaintances as well as keeping up his Southern Plantation family heritage. Here he is admiring the work of international artist Bruno Zupan. Drama and serendipitous happenings make Alfred one of the most interesting personalities this writer has ever met.

## Left Bank Art Gallery

Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary  
Presents

### "The Magic of Springtime"

McCrary Family



Portrait of a Woman by Tumakov  
O/B 15.2x11.7 NFS

Portraits South



Thursday, April 17 - Friday, April 18  
Presented by Cheri LEAVY

Marianne DUNN



Lilies  
O/C 20x16 \$1,000

Recent work by  
SABRE



Dancing Light O/C 48x48 \$6,500.

### Upcoming Events at The Left Bank

Through Monday, April 14  
McCrary Family: Paintings & Collections  
Thursday, April 17 - Friday, April 18  
Portraits South presented by Cheri LEAVY  
Thursday, May 1 - Saturday, May 15  
Comer Jennings: The Flowers of Springtime  
Tuesday, May 17 - Saturday, May 30  
Marianne DUNN: Magical Vistas  
Tuesday, June 17 - Saturday, June 28  
"The Chatov Family: Portraits, Paintings & Drawings"



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