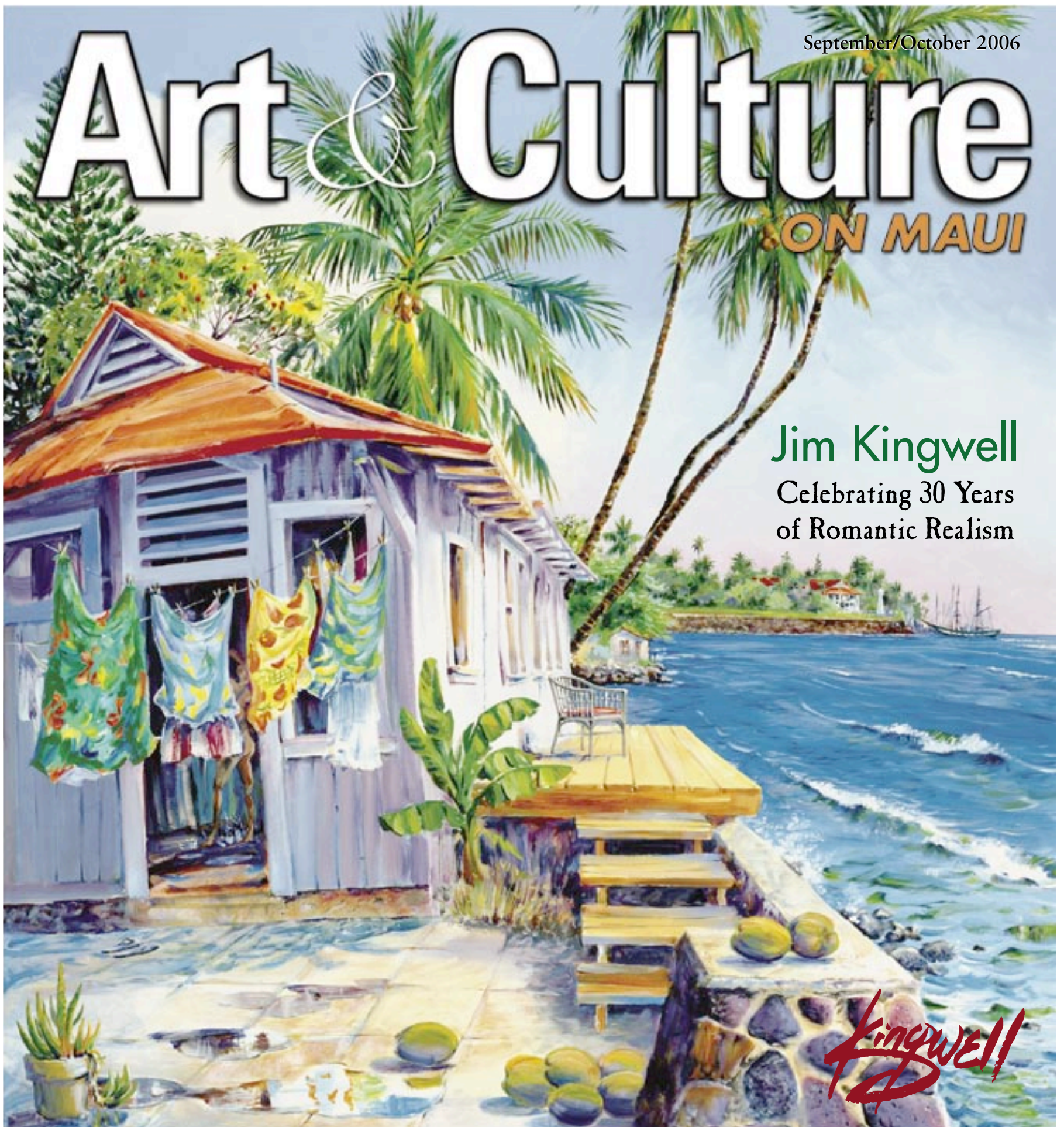


Art & Culture

ON MAUI



Jim Kingwell
Celebrating 30 Years
of Romantic Realism

by William F. Palmer

"View from Studio" Oil on Canvas, 50" x 30"

Jim Kingwell's story unfolds like a fantasy one would create from a fertile imagination rather than reality.

Jim has had the creative gift since early in his school days, and even managed to squeak out a few quarters from his sketches for pocket money. This interest in art led him to believe his future would be in the art world. A full scholarship to the San Francisco Art Academy was the validation Jim needed to pursue his career in art.

Prior to finishing his studies at the Academy, Jim joined the Air Force Reserves, where he was trained to fight airplane crash fires. This harsh reality was a convincing sign that Jim was more suited to the creative world of art than fire fighting.

After completing his Fine Art education at the Academy, Jim became acquainted with artist Tom Nicholas. It was painting with Tom and his son T. M. Nicholas that

broadened Jim's talents inspiring him to express his artistic abilities in both oil and watercolor. As a plein-air painter (one who paints outside on location), Jim packed his bags and set off on a journey that put a glint in his eye and a smile on his face that is still there to this day. Since he has made paintings, sketches and pen and ink drawings from exotic locations around this magnificent planet, I'll only have enough space

"The gallery's 12th year celebration also includes his early travel works."

to hit the high points, but you'll get the gist of it. Jim either had friends at most of these places or made new ones after he arrived – and I mean life-long friends. Jim is a guy whose enthusiasm for life is infectious. After only a few minutes of conversation, it is easy to see how as an artist and an individual he can blend into a culture

different than his own. When you put his artistic talent into the mix, he becomes the village celebrity.

Jim first traveled to the Hawaiian Islands as a child. Jim's dad worked for the airlines and Jim remembers how long the flight took, pre-jet days; as a small kid, it took forever.

With the travel bug set early in Jim's young life, it just seemed natural to take to the road in search of local culture. Painting little beach towns in South American countries such as Chile and Argentina (not unlike Lahaina Town), Jim would stay an unspecified time until he felt he had captured everything he could before he moved on. After covering Rio de Janeiro he landed in Zermatt, Switzerland, an antique village at the foot of the most celebrated mountain in the Swiss Alps, the Matterhorn.

Jim is an avid skier and snowboarder, so this was heaven on earth. The local innkeeper had



Jim Kingwell with his family.

a room with an open view of this legendary mountain. Keep in mind now that this is the start of a love affair that has lasted decades, and has made Jim Kingwell a noted Zermatt artist. It's not all heli-skiing and brandy by the fireplace, as Jim's ticket to ride is his paint and brushes, so he actively paints, not only what he sees but commission work for the local business establishments and collectors alike, spending up to three months per visit

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Jim Kingwell

Celebrating 30 Years of Romantic Realism

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"Morning's First Light" Oil, 22" x 16"



"Wailea Moon" Watercolor, 10" x 20"

in both winter and summer. Jim has used this model in almost every place he has visited, including two years in New York City, France, Italy, Greece, and Finland. Finland is on this list because both sets of Jim's grandparents are Finnish immigrants.

Ten years of Kingwell's life were spent traveling before Jim settled in Hawaii in 1989. Jim's first visit was to Oahu, where he lived on a Trans-Pac racing catamaran, the Seabird, and painted boat transoms for his pocket money. A friend recommended Maui, and so the move was made and the pursuit of "Romantic Realism" continues. Jim finds Maui awash with inspiration, but is quick to point out that his main inspiration comes from his wife Kristen, Gallery Director, and his twins Coleman and Jessica, who are now seven years old.

Kingwell Island Art Collection on Lahainaluna Road is a must-see. Jim's notable list of collectors includes Dorothy Hamill (who he met in Zermatt), John Madden,

Troy Aikman, Greg Norman, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dustin Hoffman, Eddie Murphy and Clint Eastwood, to name but a few. See for yourself why this impressive list of people have collected Jim Kingwell's "Romantic Realism."

Oh, before I forget, Jim's published works include: Art in California Vol.II – E. Hughes, Cover art Series for Yosemite Publication, Zermatt – A Guide to Zermatt & its Culture, TURISTEL – Chile Government Tour Guide Book, and Barbados Verse and Vision.

Come Experience the Artist's Original Works and Limited Edition Giclées:

Lahaina

126 Lahainaluna Road
667-6782 • 1-800-622-3394

Watch Jim paint on Friday nights from 7:30 - 9:30pm

View Jim Kingwell's work online at:
www.kingwellislandart.com

MAUI TO GO Arts & Crafts



505 Front St. • Lahaina, Hawaii 96761 Tel/Fax: (808) 662-0799
10am - 10pm everyday • e-mail: mauitogo@hawaiiantel.net

Something Special to Take Home from Maui To Go

Maui To Go Arts & Crafts specializes in works made by local artists and crafters. Monique Chicheportiche, a petite Parisian with a strong French accent, is the personable and lively director of the gallery and will make your visit there a memorable one. She has carefully selected hand-made products by over 100 artists.

If you are looking for images of the island, you'll find fine art prints, photography, paper works and even nostalgic Hawaiiana reproductions. A unique feature of this store is one of the largest and varied selections of ceramics, ranging from raku-fired vases and colorful wall pieces to functional dinnerware. Also featured are stunning glass works done by local glassblowers living on the slopes of Haleakala. Weaving with native plants and fibers results in the wide range of basketry on display. Woods such as koa, mango,

monkeypod and coconut have been worked into bowls, vases and utensils. Beautiful hand-painted silk clothing, protea candles, petroglyph items, jewelry pieces and more can inspire wonderful gift ideas for everyone on your list.

The tasteful environment of the shop is a result of Monique's love of various arts and crafts which was sparked by her sister, Joëlle C, whom Monique came to visit 15 years ago - and stayed!

Joëlle is a celebrated Maui artist and long-time resident and you will be able to enjoy a unique collection of her original works and limited editions at Joëlle C. Gallery, a fine and elegant space adjacent to Maui To Go. The combination of fine arts and beautiful crafts with the friendly atmosphere created by Monique and her husband Dan will make your visit to both shops at 505 Front Street worth the stop in Lahaina.



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