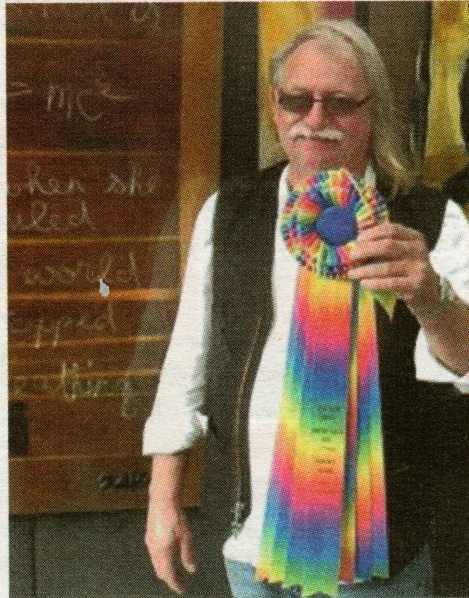


Mixed Media Artist Zaki — Part Of 11th Boca Raton Fine Show

The 11th Boca Raton Fine Art Show comes to downtown Boca Raton on Jan. 26 and 27. One of the artists taking part in the show is Zaki Knapen, an artist known to many Boca Raton residents and visitors.

Born in Antwerp, Belgium and educated in Europe, Zaki spent many years living and traveling throughout the world. Among his many stops and stayovers were England, Spain, Morocco, St. Martin and other ports of call across the Caribbean. He eventually landed in Chicago, where he made an impact sharing his art and artistic sensibilities through membership in the Elmhurst Art Guild, Chicago Art Institute, Chicago



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Art Coalition, Planet Collage, Naperville Art League, Lombard Artist Coalition and DuPage Art League. Chicago is where he also first heard about Estero Fine Art Show Executive Director Patty Narozny.

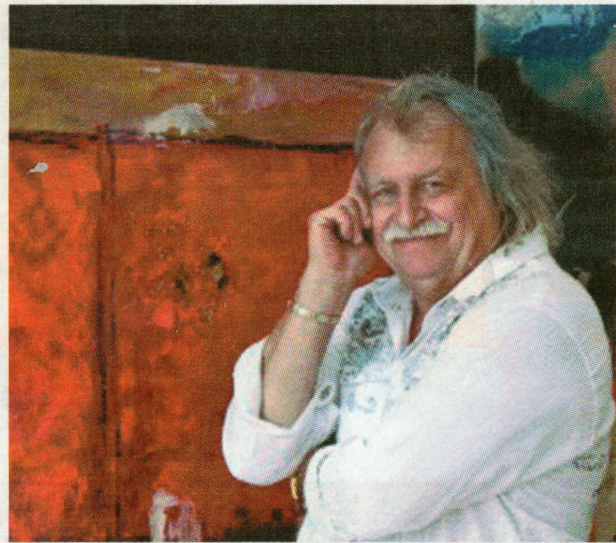
“When I lived in Chicago, I heard that if you ever do art shows in Michigan, you must participate in Patty Narozny’s art show because she pays personal attention to the artists, and makes us feel special,” Zaki recalls. Among the features exhibitors touted were Narozny’s attention to detail and support from setup to tear down, and all phases in between. But it was not until he relocated to Florida that Zaki actually applied for admission into one of Narozny’s shows.

That occurred in 2010, about a year after Zaki made the move to Lehigh Acres. He’s participated in the Estero and Boca Raton Fine Art Shows ever since, and recently, he’s served as a judge for the youth art competition and exhibition that Hot Works orchestrates in connection with each of its fine art shows.

“Everything you touch is art,” Zaki emphasizes to budding young artists. “A table, a chair – an artist had to come up with that design.” Like Narozny and Hot Works, his goal is to inject more art and art appreciation into the community. “We have talented artists in our own back yard,” he observes.

But Zaki’s encouragement is not restricted to pre-teens

and adolescents. He is just as concerned with fostering the development and enthusiasm of neophyte, mid-career and longtime professional artists. Toward that end, he



has been affiliated with art leagues since the day he arrived in Florida, serving several terms as president and contributing to the Art League’s newsletter, *Brushnotes*. As author and editor, Zaki shares his insights about the local, national and international art markets.



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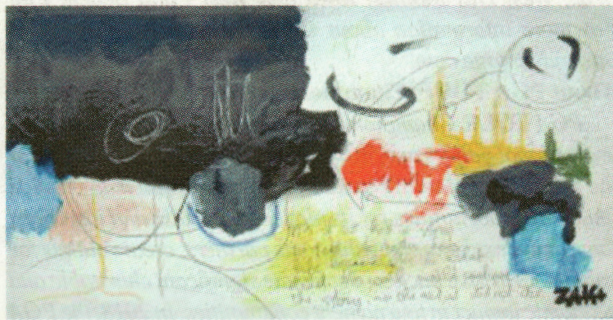
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And through group shows and outdoor art shows like the Boca Raton Fine Art Show, he shares his insights into art and life in general with those who encounter his work. "In the melding and mixing of color, you ultimately present the viewer an experience of emotional revelation," Zaki has found.

Although Zaki enjoys figurative work, he is best known as a mixed media abstract artist. His work reflects his European education, upbringing and a perspective



forged through international travel and exposure to diverse cultures and philosophies.



"I like working in the abstract," Zaki admits. "It allows me personal freedom to explore and viewers greater latitude to interpret and connect with the work based upon their own life experiences."

In the latter regard, Zaki firmly believes that art should give the viewer permission to appreciate and interpret based on internal expectations in the realm of the abstract. But for that to occur, viewers first need to take the time, slow down and wait for the work to resonate with or speak to them. One of the reasons he enjoys exhibiting at venues like the Boca Raton Fine Art Show is because of the opportunity they give art enthusiasts to experience and connect with a wide array of artists, genres, media and motifs.

Voted in the top 100 art shows in America – three years in a row – HotWorks.org presents the 11th Boca Raton Fine Art Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26 and 27, located on the corner of Palmetto Park Road and U.S./Federal Highway. There is free admission. More information at www.hotworks.org.