

## Fred Wolf @ State &amp; A Bar and Grill

## A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**LIKE LISTENING IN ON A BARELY HEARD CONVERSATION BETWEEN STRANGERS AT A RESTAURANT,**

the artwork of Academy Award winning animator Fred Wolf draws viewers into familiar but untold stories. Nine of Wolf's recent paintings are on exhibit at State & A Bar and Grill for the month of January.

"I like a painting that has a story to it," said Wolf. "I try to achieve a certain amount of tension or interaction between people in the paintings. As an animator, the characters need to have personality, but the



Fred Wolf



Members Only (oil on canvas, 24 x 30) by Fred Wolf

figures in paintings also need composition – it should be interesting to look at regardless of the story going on."

Wolf began his practical art career as a 16 year old working summers for Paramount's Famous Studios in New York, but he knew he wanted to be an artist as early as five years old. "I had to draw an Easter bunny for a local contest. I won a big chocolate egg, which my father had to carry home for me," he said.

After graduating high school and serving in Korea with the US Army, Wolf came back to Famous Studios. Meanwhile, he attended Brooklyn College where he studied art design. He also studied painting with a private tutor.

Wolf came to California in 1961 where he joined Hanna-Barbera and was handed his first big project – animating the opening and closing sequences for *The Flintstones*.

"It's an amazing gift to be able to draw anything from a milk carton to a cigarette," he said. "Of course everything was hand drawn back then. There wasn't any computer-generated animation. You had to be able to do it all."

Wolf opened his own company in 1964 and his illustrious career includes animating widely recognizable



Vanessa (oil on canvas, 30 x 40) by Fred Wolf

characters such as Tony the Tiger and the Keebler Elves, specials and cartoons like *Puff the Magic Dragon*, *Strawberry Shortcake*, and the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* series. He has been honored with several awards for his work, including an Academy Award, which he earned for the animated theatrical short *The Box* (1968), an Academy Award nomination, and three Emmys. He came to Santa Barbara in 1989 and is a member of the Santa Barbara Art Association. He spends his time between Santa Barbara and his studio in Burbank.

"I draw pictures all day and paint on the

weekends," said Wolf. "It's such a natural thing for me. Art transcends being an artist, a painter, an animator. I think above all, I'm a maker. I enjoy making things. Whether it's putting two pieces of wood together to make a bookshelf or a stool, I have a compulsion to keep my hands busy."

State & A is located at 1201 State St on the corner of State and Anapamu. Hours are 11am-11pm, Sun through Thurs, and 11am to midnight, Fri and Sat. For more information, call 966-1010 or visit [www.fredwolfartgallery.com](http://www.fredwolfartgallery.com).