

## Malcolm Tuffnell @ CASA Magazine

*Ballerinas and Other Beauties*

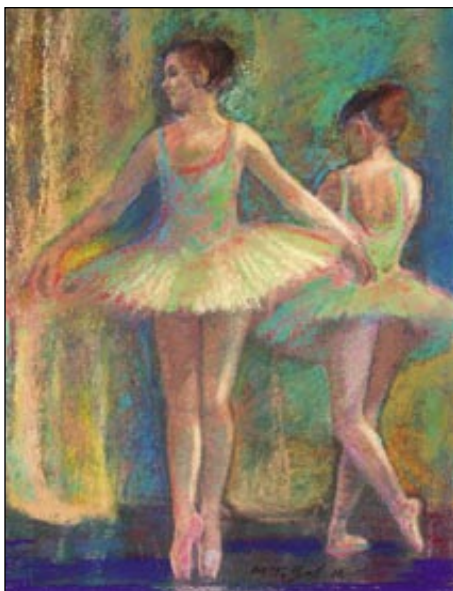
By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**C**APTIVATING THE EYE with the play of iridescence and light, paintings by Malcolm Tuffnell seem to emanate an inner glow. 25 pieces celebrating the beauty of the female form, entitled *Ballerinas and Other Beauties*, are on display at CASA Magazine for the month of January.

“The accumulation of paint on the canvas is equal to the amount of work I put into the piece,” said Tuffnell, whose painting *Ballet of Flowers* took four years to complete. “I can’t slapdash a painting. It just doesn’t feel right. I have to earn these paintings. The process itself is what engages me.”

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Tuffnell remembers drawing at his desk as a student at Washington Elementary, even when it wasn’t time for art class. As a child, he used to roam the Mesa collecting butterflies, rocks, and other objects for drawing. “I created field guides, like I was an authority on natural history,” he said. “I had a love for natural history and wanted to be a ranger one day.”

After graduating from Santa Barbara High School, Tuffnell attended UCSB as a zoology major, but soon found his way to art history and studio art. He travelled in Europe with a friend, taking in the cathedrals and especially, the European



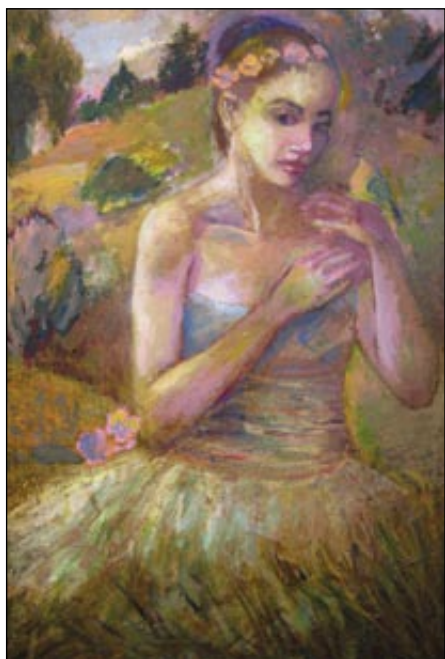
*Young dancer's rehearsal, pastel, 2010*  
by Malcolm Tuffnell

master artists like Rembrandt and the Impressionists. It was then he knew he wanted to dedicate himself to being an artist. “I’ve always enjoyed the classical arts, like music, ballet, and opera,” he said. “My paintings are like a culmination of my love for these art forms.”

With portfolio in hand, Tuffnell headed to Boston to continue his art studies at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, where he graduated with honors and was winner of the Liquitex Fine Arts Materials Award. Tuffnell returned to Santa Barbara after completing his studies and continues to paint every day. “When I paint, it’s like being in a peaceful space,” he said. “I feel complete afterwards.”

Using a layering process that requires lengthy drying periods, Tuffnell uses oil painting techniques inspired by the old masters he admires. The multiple layers of oil paint and glazing add an air of mystery and intensifies the richness of color.

“I hope people see a peaceful, passionate reality when they view my paintings,” he said. “There is something to be said for a romantic rather than an ironic view of the world. The artist offers us freedom from our efficient, overly-organized existence. It’s important to bring beauty into people’s lives.”



*Ballerina pastorale (the songbird), oil/canvas, 24" x 36", 2009* by Malcolm Tuffnell

CASA Magazine is located at 23 E. Canon Perdido. Hours are 9am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, call 965-6448 or visit [www.yessy.com/tuffnellarts](http://www.yessy.com/tuffnellarts).