

## Tom Post @ CASA Magazine

# Artistic Evolution

By **Jeanette Casillas** / CASA

**S**HIFTING FORMS created by the sweeping, yet perfectly controlled gestures of Tom Post's brush make their way onto his large canvases that are on view at CASA Magazine through July 29th.

The exhibit includes 14 canvases ranging in size from 24" x 24" to 48" x 60" as well as two works on paper. Saturated with color, Post's canvases present the viewer with shapes in constant movement. They "relate to mythological figures, landscape, animal forms, fragments of body parts with a ripe undercurrent of sensual and erotic



*Slow Twist, o/c, 24"x24"* by Tom Post

possibilities," according to the artist.

"I start working without having a plan," he shared. "I first cover the canvas, work up the tone, and the image evolves through the process of working. I like not knowing what it will look like in the end."

Post was born and raised in the "thriving metropolis" of Seagraves, Texas. He graduated from Texas A & M University with a B.S. in Structural Architecture. After graduation, he worked for a year in Aspen, Colorado. Around that time Vietnam was looming, so Post went to Officer Candidate School and joined the Navy Seabees. During two tours he served as Public Affairs Officer and later in Operations. Part of his job as public affairs officer was taking photographs. Fascinated by photography, he decided to move west to Santa Barbara in 1969 to attend the Brooks Institute of Photography where he received a B.A. in Photography in 1971 and also met his wife Patti, who is also an artist.

"When I started at Brooks one of my assignments was to utilize the lighting that Rembrandt used in his paintings," shared Post. "I was intrigued by the thought process," so he took it upon himself to read more and learn about other artists and



Tom Post

their work.

Throughout the years, Post's work has evolved as he worked as a printmaker, photographer, and silk screener.

In the early seventies, he began incorporating collage elements in some of the studies for serigraphs that he was creating.

"Collage gave me an element that I couldn't control," he explained. "It was a surprise element. It was not pre-determined. Collage loosened up my technique. It helped a lot."

Because his early training was so structured, Post, through collage worked his way out of predetermining the imagery he wanted. Soon he began a series of collages utilizing ripped cardboard. Most of them were reminiscent of figures, animals, and landscapes.

Later in the mid 90's he visited an exhibit of Buddhist Monk Calligraphy at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art that inspired him to explore calligraphic images. He started by producing charcoal calligraphic images on paper which later made their way into the oil on canvas paintings that he continues today.

Post also turned to Norse mythology to title some of his works and encountered, Ymir, a primordial giant whose body was formed by the swirling mists and then ravaged and became the earth, mountains, and streams. The idea of evolving from one state to another and the process of that change became the underlying concept of his work.

That swirling evolution is also reflected in



*Magic Potion, o/c, 30"x36"* by Tom Post

his painting process. Post, works on several pieces at a time, and admits that knowing when a piece is complete is a challenge. "When I am not satisfied with one I can go to work on others," he shared. "Sometimes it will be months and months before I go back to one piece, but I just keep working until I am satisfied."

As long as the passion to paint is there he continues painting and evolving.

"In martial arts beginners always start out with the white belt and as they progress in their training the belt changes color," explained Post. "As an artist I continually put on the white belt because I am continually learning and changing myself."

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 [CasaSB.com](http://CasaSB.com).