

Local **Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski**

Richard Schmidt, painter



Richard Schmidt has been painting for more than 40 years. Originally from New York, he moved to Illinois in 1987.

In New York, he belonged to several art groups such as the Mamaroneck Artist Guild, the New Rochelle and Mount Vernon art associations, where he served on their boards and was involved with their gallery programs.

Schmidt has been juried into many shows such as Salmagundi, the Hudson Valley Art Association and others, while in New York, winning quite a number of awards on the way.

In New York he studied under several teachers for brief periods.

In Illinois, he is involved in yearly juried



shows, such as the Tall Grass Art Association in Crete, Oak Park, Homewood, Griffith Ind., Wheaton, Tinley Park, Frankfort, and the St. Charles Fine Arts shows, as well as with gallery showings in Frankfort, Chicago, and southern Illinois throughout the year.

In many of these shows, Richard has won awards and prizes including several "Best of Shows." He is currently on the program/gallery committee for Tall Grass Association, and also a member of the Illinois Artisans Program.

His paintings are done either in oils or watercolor. Schmidt works from sketches and from reference photographs. The paintings are always done in his studio and are of visited places.

Reference photographs are taken when he is moving quickly in his travels, but he prefers to work from sketches done on the spot. Richard interprets the colors and light using a modified

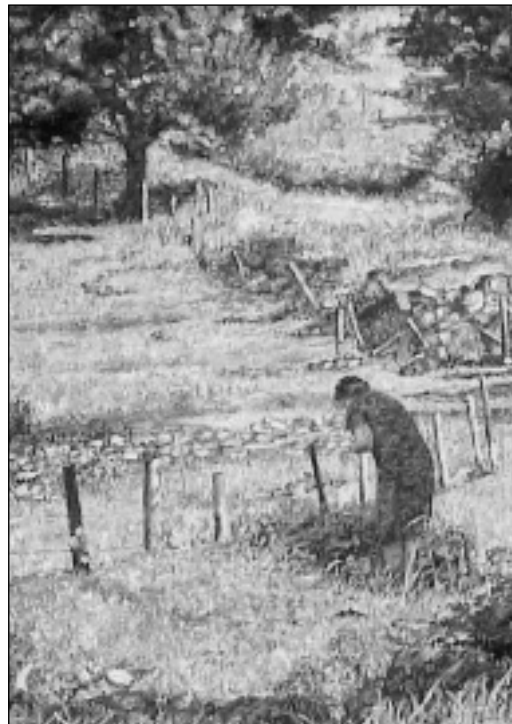
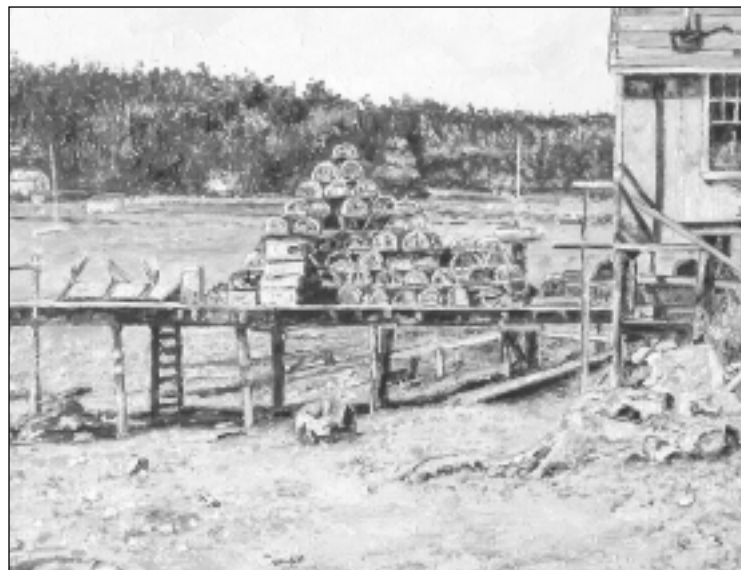


Photo provided to the Star

Richard Schmidt has been painting in oils and watercolors for more than 40 years. Clockwise from far left are some of his works. "Feeding Time "is 24" by 16" and is \$1,200; "Pickin' Berries" is \$1,200; "Armonk Windmill" is an oil, 18" by 26," priced at \$1,500; "Lobsterman's Dock is also an oil, priced at \$1,300; and at lower left, "Boat Houses," an oil priced at \$1,600.



ject that I paint. In a sense, becoming the subject.

"Capture that color, see the sunshine, walk into those woods, feel the cold, the texture of the rock, hear the music of the babbling stream, the warmth of an autumn day. I interpret the colors and light using a wet on wet technique and a modified pointillism style. The light plays on the subjects and their environment is the real inspiration." Recently, Highland resident Nola Cameon purchased an original watercolor by Richard Schmidt. She shared her thought on his work.

"I love landscape art and

was immediately drawn to Richard Schmidt's paintings because they reminded me of some of the places I loved, growing up in Western Canada. Although Richard's art is of the Eastern United States (New York, New Hampshire), it has a universal feel — where anyone could say, "that looks like the lake I used to go to, or the pond where we used to fish."

"Or in my case, "Glenn Ellis Falls" reminded me of Maligne Canyon in the Canadian Rockies. It evokes a personal sentimental response and I am so enjoying owning it. The colors are fascinating, changing in different light."

To view more than twenty paintings by Richard Schmidt please call (219) 365-1014 or e-mail samowner@sbcglobal.net or visit The Steeple Gallery, 11107 Thiel St. St. John, IN 46373.

pointillism style.

I asked what subject matter he prefers to paint. "I have always been fascinated with painting nature and those things quite not permanent. I personally see spiritual significance in the density and feel of matter—there is something timeless, immortal about it—whether a rock, tree, water, a bowl of fruit, or an old barn falling down on itself," he said.

"These things have texture, dimension and a soul. Trying to express the three-dimensional world on two-dimensional canvas is a daunting challenge. This is my aim with every new painting. Using oil or water, I primarily use landscapes and still life to study and interpret reality because one can look intently at, and study object that on a whole do not move. My most satisfying results come from losing myself in the sub-

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