

ALAIN LE CHATELIER: HOMAGE TO SAINT BARTH

His sense of color. His amazing technique. A wonderful sense of humor. An amazing eye for nature and the world of insects and amphibians he calls upon so playfully in his paintings. With a style that often echoes the clever work of 16th-century Italian artist Arcimboldo, French painter Alain Le Chatelier presents his annual exhibit at Les Artisans in Gustavia, opening Friday, February 24, 2017.

“My recent exhibit in Sweden was a huge success,” says the artist. “There seems to be an incredible love for the landscapes of St Barth in Sweden.” He has also recently completed several commissions of his village, Berrule, in France, captured in each of the four seasons.

But even with all that going on, Le Chatelier dedicated several months to a series of three large paintings that are the centerpiece of this year’s show: delightful views of the island pay homage to Saint Barth. The first is a view of the harbor from the lighthouse during the St Barth Bucket last year. The eye is treated to the blue of the sea and myriad local flora and fauna, from a large iguana and turtle watching the action, to mango, coconut, and breadfruit trees, along with cactus and the island of St Eustache in the distance. “A painting like this represents more than one month’s work,” Le Chatelier admits.

The second painting is of a large colonial style house with a view of the port, its traditional architecture embraced by lush vegetation, cactus, flowers, lizards, and insects, with sailboats and islands in the distance. The sky is vibrant with



the colors of late afternoon light, yet the sea is a visual tease in the bright blue of early afternoon, with small flags bobbing along the water.

The third large canvas is an ode to nature with a bouquet in shades of green encompassing a view of the salt pond in St Jean. The small islands in the distance and the same sailboat as in the other two paintings serves as the connecting thread through the theme of St Barth. This bouquet comprises cactus, coconut palms, aloe, breadfruit, latanier palms, mangos, lilies, and banana trees, as well as small sugarbirds and succulents with white flowers.

Smaller paintings range from rivers

and waterfalls of Guadeloupe, with lush greenery framing water so refreshing it makes you want to dive right in, and the swimming pool at the artist’s mother’s house in the Luberon, to a small Caribbean house near Mont Jean, under the shade of palm trees with a wooden walkway, and a kitchen scene at his house in the country with eggs and sausage cooking on a gas stove. A painting of red tropical fruit with passion fruit, watermelon, two frogs, two hummingbirds, a lizard, a sugarbird, hot red peppers, and ginger flowers is another treat for the eyes.

*Alain Le Chatelier
Les Artisans
Opening reception,
Friday, February 24, 6pm-8pm*

Alain Le Chatelier

EXPOSITION



VERNISSAGE

Friday, February, 24
from 6:00 pm

at *Les Artisans*

rue du Général de Gaulle - Gustavia - lesartisans@mac.com - 0590 27 50 40