



## ALAIN LE CHATELIER AT LES ARTISANS: FRUIT/SALAD

**A**lain Le Chatelier's annual winter show at Les Artisans in Gustavia is a riot of red and green, but in examining his paintings the variegation of colors in his fruit and foliage seems infinitely endless. He focuses on two themes in his new work, red fruit and green salad, with his usual lushness, juiciness, and technical prowess. A painting called "Love In The Garden" is a cornucopia of green vegetables: lettuces, cabbages, zucchinis, and a shiny watermelon in a fantasy garden with two frogs, two wasps, two snails, two dragon flies... all making love in the sensual environment Le Chatelier has provided for them. But the lettuce leaves are not just green; there are carefully tinted Batavia leaves with softly

purple edges. Just as on another painting where heads of lettuce veer from shades of green to pink, violet, and mauve. "The lettuce petals are arranged like a big rose," says Le Chatelier, who also has a series of smaller painting featuring frogs playing or dancing in a lush wetland (the opera *Platée* springs to mind...).

"Here we have red poppies and red berries along with lettuce in my country garden," Le Chatelier points out, indicating his village church in the background. The country garden is also the focus of a painting with a bright red tablecloth creating a backdrop for a stately group of pink and purple irises, and again the scene for a topiary of a bunny in a long, nar-

row painting where the green lawn is interrupted only by white chairs and a table set with white wine for three, and a blue and yellow ball hovering as if an unseen hand had just tossed it into the frame and it hadn't yet landed on the ground. Mixing elements from various environments makes for fun in Le Chatelier's work with a tropical rain forest and mountains in Dominica mixed with a garden of French lettuce and Caribbean cabbage. These paintings have a European sense of light and shadow, but as the painter admits: "I want to paint more in Saint Barth. It's like Provence, you are immediately taken by the light."

Le Chatelier brought two large canvases, the first evoking the



# Alain Le Chatelier



## VERNISSAGE

Friday 8th February, 2013 from 6pm  
at **Les Artisans**

rue du Général de Gaulle, Gustavia - Tel. 0590 27 50 40 - [les.artisans@wanadoo.fr](mailto:les.artisans@wanadoo.fr)





Kvarnby River in Sweden, near a gallery where he has shown his work. Yellow irises and smaller yellow flowers flirt with frogs, large trees, and the bare feet of a friend dangling in the water. Le Chatelier's signature black boots are in the corner, as if he too, would soon be wading into the

scene. The largest of the new works, a two-meter by two-meter canvas, is a huge pyramid of red fruit, with a few parrots adding a tropical touch and a small dormouse peering out from under the plate. "They love fruit," says Le Chatelier, in explanation of the animal's presence. "It took me more

than two months to paint this," he adds. "I love to wake up and know I am going to spend 10 to 12 hours alone in my studio, with my music, diving into a mountain of fruit. I also love to play with color and discovered the pleasures of bold red, orange, pink, and yellow in the way women dress in India, the colors are amazing."

Le Chatelier's work exhibits a sense of hyper-reality mixed with a dose of fantasy and a splash of humor at times. And as always, the closer you look, the more you see!

***Alain Le Chatelier,  
opening reception,  
Les Artisans, Gustavia, 6pm,  
Friday, February 8***

*Ellen Lampert-Gréaux  
Photo: Rosemond Gréaux*