

Christopher M: The PAINTER OF CHEFS

February 18, 19 & 20, 2011

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There was a point in time in which discerning gourmands reserved themselves to historically renowned restaurants of France and Italy to satisfy their elegant tastes, but today, everything is changing.

The culinary arts have taken center stage in today's movies, television and on the Internet, but it is more than

just a fad. American patrons are informed about artful food preparation and presentation, and with that knowledge, they have set out to incorporate it into their lifestyle. Extending from the celebrity chefs of our favorite reality shows to Executive Chefs in the nation's critically-acclaimed restaurants, a myriad of new personalities are ready to hone their skills and refine our palates.

California artist Christopher M. has made this profession the subject of his own work. His dynamic and colorful oil masterpieces revere the iconic white hat and coat of the culinary arts, draw parallels between the worlds of cooking and painting, and honor that which tantalizes our senses of sight, smell and taste. His works, such as "Savor the Moment" and "Mise en Place" have garnered the respect of chefs and art collectors alike, earning him Poster Artist for the Las Vegas Art Expo 2008 and a presence at the San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival in 2009 and 2010. He also works one-on-one with various chefs to deliver a unique collaboration between art and food. His next series of paintings is inspired by Executive Chef William Bradley of Addison Restaurant at The Grand Del Mar. A special one night event, February 17th, will allow guests to experience a truly unique art show celebrating the craft of Chef Bradley, within an unforgettable fine dining experience, complete with wine pairings.

Lauded for his contemporary French cuisine, Addison has enjoyed the Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five Diamond awards for 2009 and 2010, the first and only venue to do so in San Diego. Chef Bradley's talent speaks for itself, but Christopher M. is thrilled with the opportunity to illustrate it on canvas. The paintings are not portraits in the conventional sense of the word, but as the painter explains, "It is inspired



"Savor the Moment"

Fine Art Limited Edition

36" x 25"

"Mise en Place"

30" x 20"



by the chef, but the viewers can put themselves into that situation—it has a universal element. For Chef William Bradley, I want to show elements of him, so it is kind of a balancing act."

Christopher M.'s observations of chefs reveal the interior dynamic of their occupation. He explores the technical and the tedious, the theatrical and dramatic, as well as the personal and emotional contributions that are married in the creation of formal cuisine. This new epicurean accessibility poignantly addresses American cultural maturity. Christopher, as an American artist, recognizes that, "I'm documenting a change in history, in perception... great artistry and craft,

such as that of chefs like William Bradley, commands respect."

Fine art stands apart not only for its technical expertise, but because it is socially relevant, commenting on humanity. Christopher M. strives to capture a "timeless kind of statement" in his work. He expounds upon this idea, saying, "It is not so much about a fleeting moment, but about the entire process—human things we can all relate to. When you collect a painting, you live with it for a long time. It's a lifestyle." It only makes sense to combine within one's lifestyle those ingredients which enrich one's palate and elicit the most delicious results.

Call the gallery to reserve your tickets for the art, culinary and wine event with Chef Bradley of Addison on February 17th.

And be sure to join us at Fashion Valley Gallery for an unveiling of new paintings by "The Painter of Chefs" Christopher M., February 18–20.

For more information about Addison Restaurant, see our *Dine* section on page 27.

CHRISTOPHER M., PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIO COVIC

