



Lights in the Rain, 30 by 40 inches, \$8,400

COURTESY PHOTOS

## Rainy day in town

Painter captures unique aspects of Santa Barbara in oil paintings



DANIEL DREIFUSS/NEWS-PRESS

By MARILYN MCMAHON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

**T**alk about timely. Some of the oil paintings in Richard Schloss' current exhibit at the Santa Barbara Fine Art Gallery on State Street are rainy wet street scenes of Santa Barbara.

"I began painting street scenes in the rain when I lived in the Bay Area, which gets a lot more rain, and when I came back to Santa Barbara in 2016, I decided to continue doing the same thing," said Mr. Schloss, who grew up in Castro Valley and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in fine art at UCSB. "I started out as a physics major and soon realized I was never going to be a physicist. After taking some drawing classes during the summer, I decided I would be an artist," he said. And a very successful one, too. His large paintings, all in oil, average 3 by 5 feet in size and

sell for \$1,000 to \$15,000.

"New Paintings" is on display through March 6 at the gallery he and his wife, Julie Schloss, rent at 1324 State St., across from the Arlington Theatre. The new exhibit features scenes of Santa Barbara.

"I'm always looking for new places to paint, and I decide on a theme depending on the audience that will come to see the exhibit. It has a lot to do with whom I think will come to see the show," Mr. Schloss said. "Although I paint mostly local areas, I don't do them exclusively. I also paint scenes in Northern California and the Eastern Sierra."

Mr. Schloss, 65, is the only living local artist whose paintings are in four local museums — the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Museum of Ventura County and Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art.

"Light and atmosphere — that's what my paintings are all

about," said Mr. Schloss. "Santa Barbara is unique in both elements because the coast runs east to west, and the mountains are close to the ocean. The angle of the sun sets and rises across the hills, plus the mountains are exposed to the ocean, so when the sun sets, it's very orange and so low, the horizon is on the ocean. We call it the pink moment because the sun is setting so low."

Mr. Schloss' career as an artist began while he was living in a trailer on the UCSB campus and studying for his bachelor's degree in Italian, working as a teacher's assistant and clerking in the campus bookstore.

"I had a good thing going. The trailer isn't there anymore," he said with a chuckle. "I was also painting and selling my artwork. At first, I was trying everything — watercolors, pastels, figure drawing, abstracts."

Among the professors who influenced him most at UCSB were Irma Conit, William



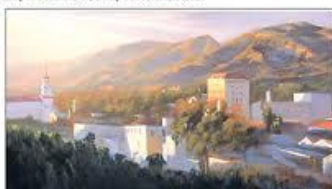
Santa Barbara Harbor Sunrise, 12 by 16 inches, \$1,800



Gibraltar Reservoir, 10 by 40 inches, \$5,800



City From the Pier, 30 by 48 inches, \$8,600



Light Over the City, 24 by 40 inches, \$4,600

PHOTOS BY PAINTINGS ON A7

continued...

## The iPhone images are just as good

### ■ PAINTINGS

Continued from Page A6

Rohrbach and Gary Brown. In 1982, Mr. Schloss moved into a house with two friends near Westmont College in Montecito.

"I had my first show at the Bradley Gallery, and I began showing at the Delphine Gallery," he said. "For 20 years, from 1984 to 2004, my artwork was at the Easton Gallery in Montecito."

The move to Northern California came about in 2008 when his daughter wanted to attend school in Marin County.

After she graduated, Mr. Schloss spent two years in Napa Valley before returning to Santa Barbara in 2016. He is the father of Phillip, 32, and Isabella, 22.

"When I first started doing landscapes outdoors, I kept painting them bigger and bigger until they became too unwieldy. Then, I started going smaller and smaller, but now, I'm back to larger sizes again," Mr. Schloss said.

The paintings are done from photos that he takes with his iPhone 7 camera.

"When I started, I had the romantic idea of just doing black-and-white pictures with a basic camera. I developed them myself. Then, I used a better camera, and now, the iPhone images are just as good. They allow me to do the large-size paintings in this combination studio and gallery," he said.

Asked what he likes best about his career as an artist, Mr. Schloss said, "I chose it myself. It's what I wanted to do, and I can make my living at it."

email: [mcmahon@newspress.com](mailto:mcmahon@newspress.com)

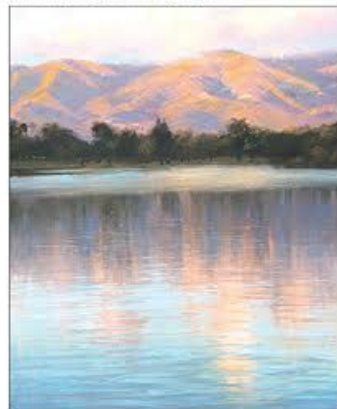
### FYI

For more information about Richard Schloss paintings, call 845-4270, email [info@santabarbarafineart.com](mailto:info@santabarbarafineart.com) or stop in at Santa Barbara Fine Art, 1324 State St.



Chase Palm Park, 36 by 72 inches, \$15,000

COURTESY PHOTOS



Laguna Blanca, Hopo Ranch, 26 by 20 inches, \$4,200



DANIEL DREIFUSS/NEWS-PRESS

Richard Schloss is the only living local artist whose paintings are in four local museums — the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Museum of Ventura County and Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art. A current exhibit, "New Paintings," is on display through March 6 at the Santa Barbara Fine Art Gallery, 1324 State St.