



## M. BURTON HANDS

*"As I paint in the ancient villages of France and along the nearby coast of the Mediterranean Sea, I'm always struck by its timelessness and beauty. It truly is visual poetry just waiting to be expressed on canvas."*

Painting in the footsteps of the French Impressionists has consumed a great part of Hands' recent schedule. The way these masters approached the attempt to capture the light effect of a moment in time in some of the most beautiful landscape in the world has had a profound impact on Hands' work.

"There is nothing quite like setting up my French easel in front of my chosen subject because I never know exactly what is going to happen. Is my sunny day going to turn cloudy halfway through my painting? Will the quiet country lane become a bustling thoroughfare before I'm done? Will the landowner's HUGE black dog tire of my presence before I'm ready to leave? Or better yet, will the local art critic approve of my efforts or enlist me to pick grapes to repay the use of his / her property as my subject?"

This race against the light requires quick decisions and a rapid application of paint. It has been a key to my development as a painter and is a challenge that simply must be experienced to fully appreciate. As a quick aside, I think the challenge aspect explains my attraction to fly fishing. Rather than leaves and blades of grass, spots of warm and cool and light and dark make up the detail in my paintings.

My work is an honest attempt to build upon the discoveries of past generations in the tradition of representational paintings; to convey not merely a beautiful place, but a poetic expression of ideas that transcend time and hold the promise of an even better tomorrow...if we would only embrace those ideas, not try to destroy them.