

TEN & TWO

PORTFOLIO



SATURDAY'S STORM—Oil On Canvas—32" x 46"

FLORIDA

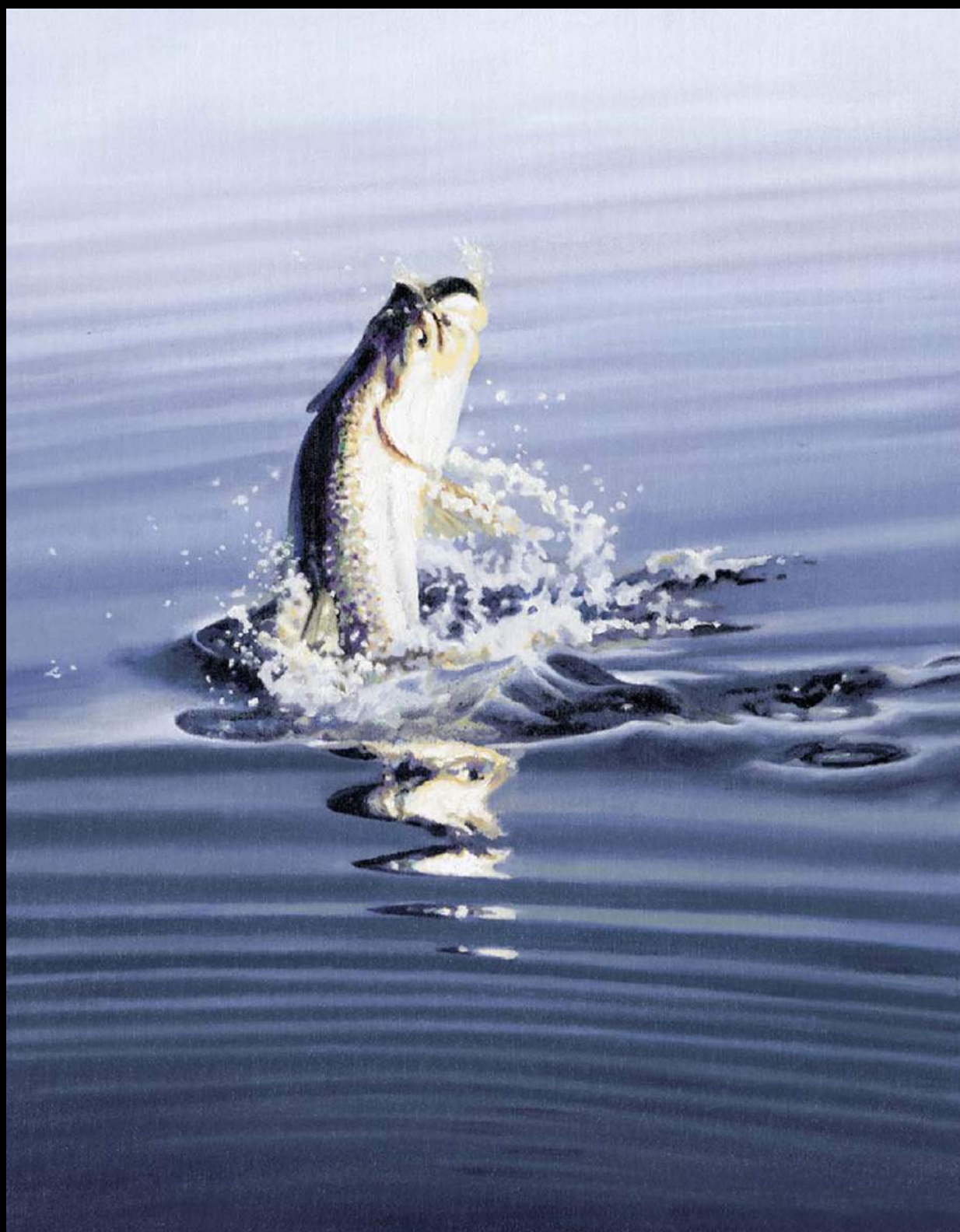
Vaughn Cochran

~ Painter

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TARPON EXPLOSION—Acrylic On Canvas—32" x 35"



JUMPING ONE—Oil On Canvas—16" x 20"



Vaughn COCHRAN

LOOKING BACK ON IT ALL NOW, Vaughn Cochran probably never had a choice. In school, he'd drift away during class and sketch pictures in the margins of his notebooks. He even remembers his first day in art class. St. Augustine, Florida, was a creative center at the time; and, as he grew up in the city, art simply consumed him piece-by-piece, year-by-year. He excelled at everything he touched artistically. Painting, ceramics, music and fishing. It didn't seem to matter. He was a natural. Often, artists describe their creative processes by saying they become dissociated from the experience. In a sense, they are a passenger on a journey. In Cochran's case, he was not the passenger—he was the ride.

www.vaughncochranart.com

HE EARNED A DEGREE IN ART and ceramics at the well-known Art and Printmaking Department of the University of South Florida, and with a dramatic turn of luck in 1972, he arrived in Key West just as the creative mushroom cloud was forming over the city.

“Key West is something I look back on now and it kind of gives me goose bumps,” says Vaughn. At the time, he was a well-known fly-fishing guide and one of the three original characters who gave birth to the Coral Reefer Band. The members included Vaughn, “Fingers” Taylor and Jimmy Buffet on vocals and guitar. This was the Key West of Buffet, McGuane, Brautigan, Jim Harrison and Vaughn Cochran. The incredible creative convergence in the city helped drive Vaughn’s art forward. “I think about those days and it’s actually a wonder I survived the whole thing.”

As his style of painting developed it actually became an absence of style. He was influenced by everything. “My whole day is looking at shapes, colors, shadows and juxtapositions. It’s an obsession that won’t go away.” As a consequence, it’s almost impossible to pigeonhole him into any one look or perspective. He credits this to his early education where he was not taught how to do art, but how to think about art. The doing he did by himself.

“I was a student during the whole original pop-art movement. Common objects were viewed in a different way and out of that experience I developed what I called my Bright Series, which

included all the fish images that were anatomically correct, but the details were filled in with flat color. The series caught on and cemented Vaughn’s reputation in the world of fishing related art. Currently, he’s working on a series of portraits of famous fly fishermen painted in the same pop-art fashion.

Vaughn describes his art as simply a process of getting from “A” to “B”, but for lots of people, the distance between those two letters is often an impassable expanse. From this writer’s perspective, the process appears to be more of an appropriate response as opposed to the connection of two diverse points. We all have a given number of life experiences and moments of clarity or understanding. The true artists appear to be the ones who can challenge themselves and then trust in their experiences to show them the way to connect the points. The solution already exists. The artists simply need to allow it to live. They need to have the good sense to get out of the way and let it happen. Vaughn Cochran got out of his own way a long time ago and he appears to have “A” figured out. “B” is a work in progress and, fortunately, it will take until he dies to connect it to “A”. This should be fun to watch.

Vaughn’s awards and shows are too numerous to mention. You can find them on his fine art web site at www.vaughncochranart.com/artgallery and then there’s the outfitter/store site at www.blackflyoutfitter.com. A small portion of his large portfolio is included here. Enjoy yourself with Vaughn’s images. ©

Story by **TEN & TWO STAFF**



TURTLE GRASS—Oil On Canvas—36” x 48”



LEAN GREEN FIGHTING MACHINE—Oil On Canvas—20" x 30"



TARPON BRIGHT—Oil On Canvas—30" x 40"



JUMPING SNOOK—Oil On Canvas—18" x 24"



TARPON TIME OUT—Oil On Canvas—20" x 30"



LUCKY BOY—Oil On Canvas—32" x 46"



TARPON DAISY CHAIN—Oil On Canvas—36" x 48"