



PAUL SCHULENBURG

Life on the Cape

Paul Schulenburg, an anchor of the Cape Cod art community, maintains his enthusiasm by painting different subject matter. While most of the artist's work is about the human figure in an outdoor or interior setting, he also enjoys painting the landscape—with or without an implied human presence. Well known for his paintings of local fishermen—sometimes at work and sometimes at rest—Schulenburg's latest series marks a continuum of this reoccurring theme.

"People are always moving...every time someone moves it's a different gesture," he acknowledges. "The challenge is to put a different spin and perspective on things."

The always-changing light also influences a painting's outcome. In particular, Schulenburg's more recent series of interior scenes capture light, often softly illuminated from a window. The sparsely decorated and uncluttered interiors of the Cape's historic homes provide an ideal setting for such pieces as *Shaving Mirror*. "It's fun to do a room with a portal into the next room and reflect light in the mirror," Schulenburg remarks.

The historic fishing village of Provincetown provides much fodder for Schulenburg's oil paintings of fishermen. A traditional occupation that attracts mostly men in their 20s up to age 60, this year he painted a boy about



1

On Approach to the Pier,
oil on canvas, 40 x 30"

2

Sorting Clams in Wellfleet,
oil on canvas, 30 x 30"

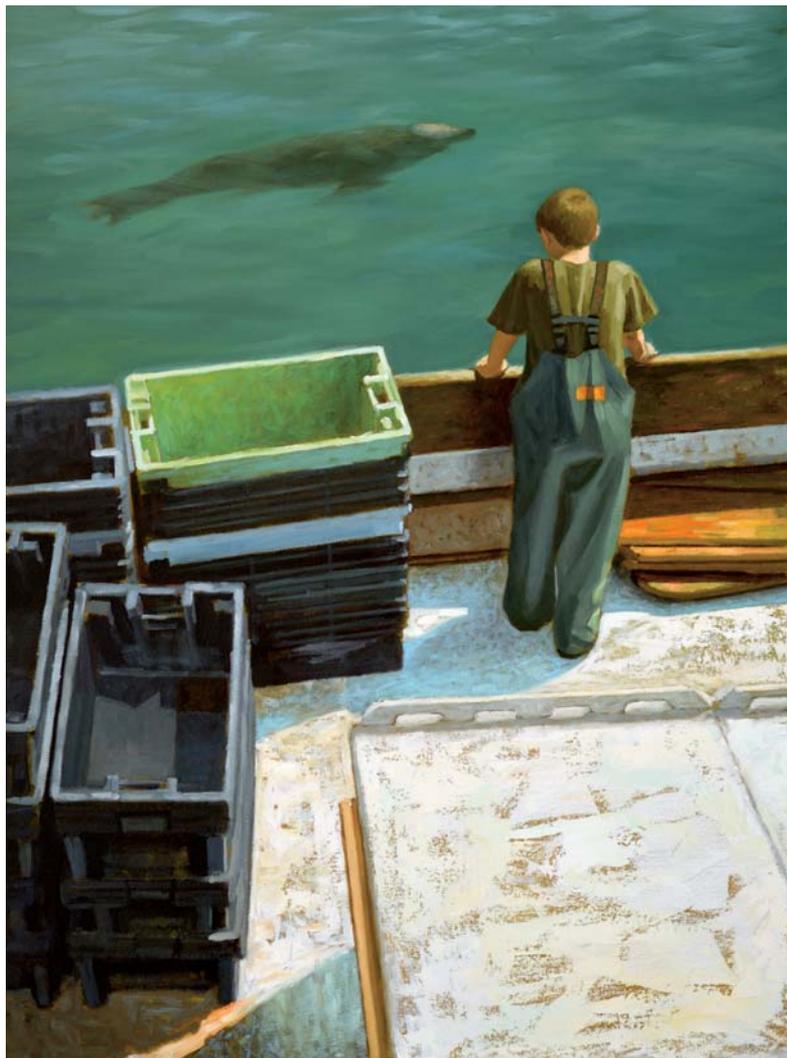
3

A Boy and A Seal,
oil on canvas, 40 x 30"

4

Shaving Mirror,
oil on canvas, 30 x 30"

1



3

“Schulenburg’s works capture the stories of our living traditions.”

—Helen Addison, director, Addison Art Gallery



4



2

12 years old, dressed for working on the boat and looking into the water as a seal swims by just under the surface. The piece, titled *A Boy and A Seal*, speaks to the pair’s shared goal of catching fish.

“I found this interesting as boys are typically fascinated by wild animals and seals get a lot of attention at the fish pier,” Schulenburg informs. “The seal and the boy are also in the same business...They are actually in competition for the fish around here; so at the same time they might be friends and colleagues, but they are also competitors.”

Schulenburg also enjoys painting women working off fishing boats or by the water, as seen in *Sorting Clams in Wellfleet*, a rare example of a female fisherman at work. Unaware of his presence, Schulenburg is able to convey the woman’s natural state as she sorts clams on a beach.

“I liked the way she sat by the water working with the shellfish, but she almost looks like she could be reading a book,” he says. “It was a beautiful day and the air was still and it was a tranquil scene.” ●