

# Lighthouse Point

MAGAZINE

[www.LHPmag.com](http://www.LHPmag.com)

February 2011

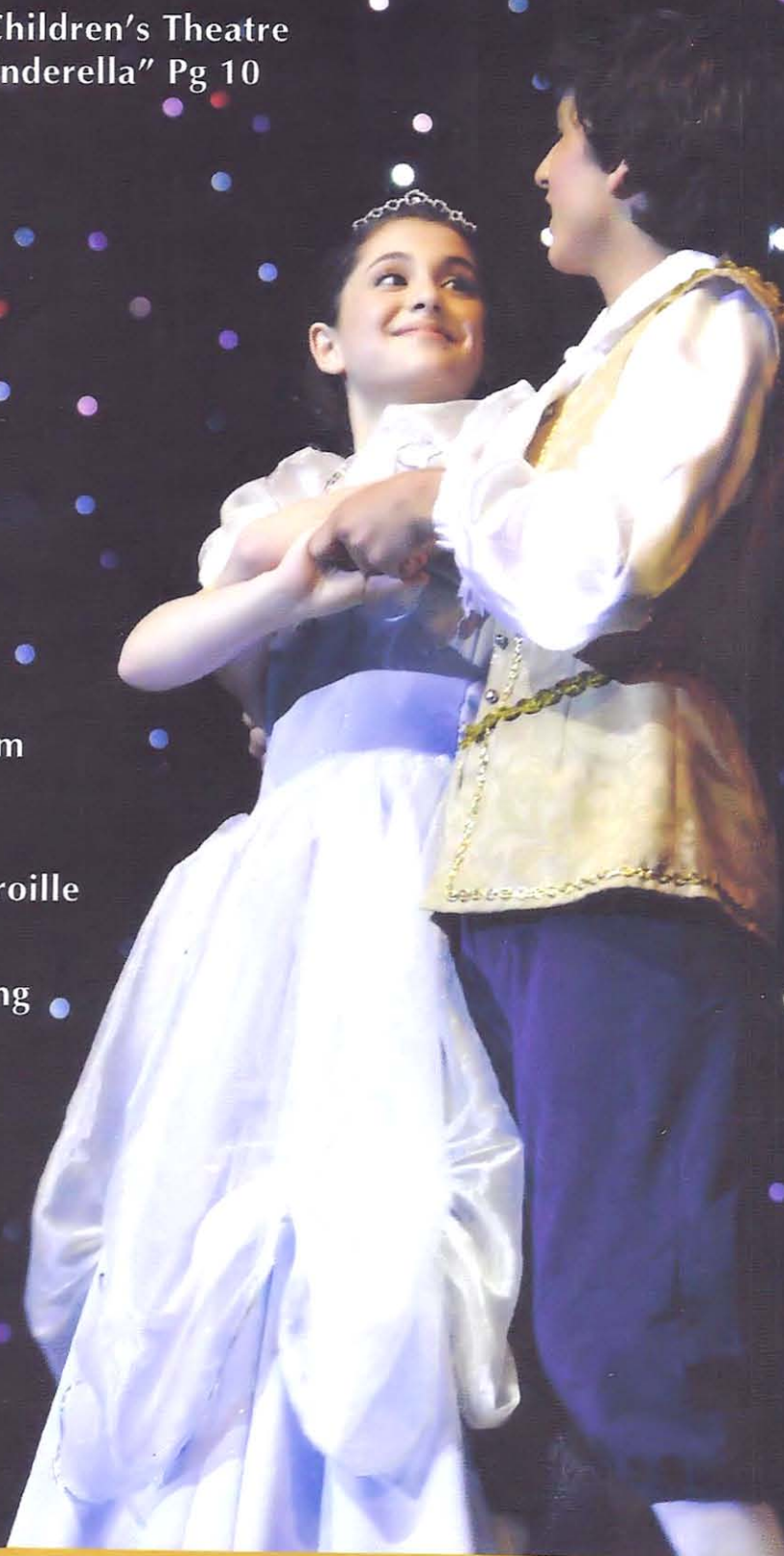
Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre  
Production of "Cinderella" Pg 10

## INSIDE:

Journey to Belgium  
Pg. 28

Artist  
Jean Claude Boutroille  
Pg. 34

The Spirit of Giving  
Pg. 42



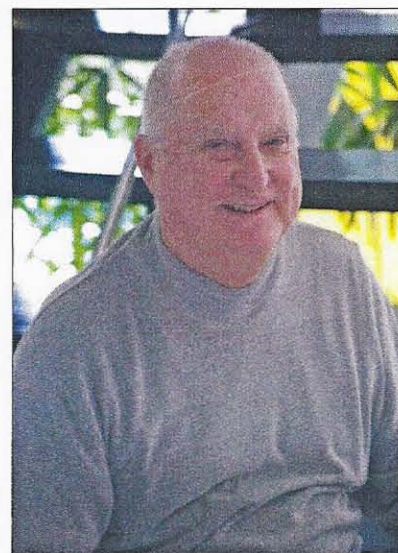
*"The Biggest Little Magazine in South Florida"*



# Artist **JEAN CLAUDE BOUTROUILLE**



Story by Marla Schwartz

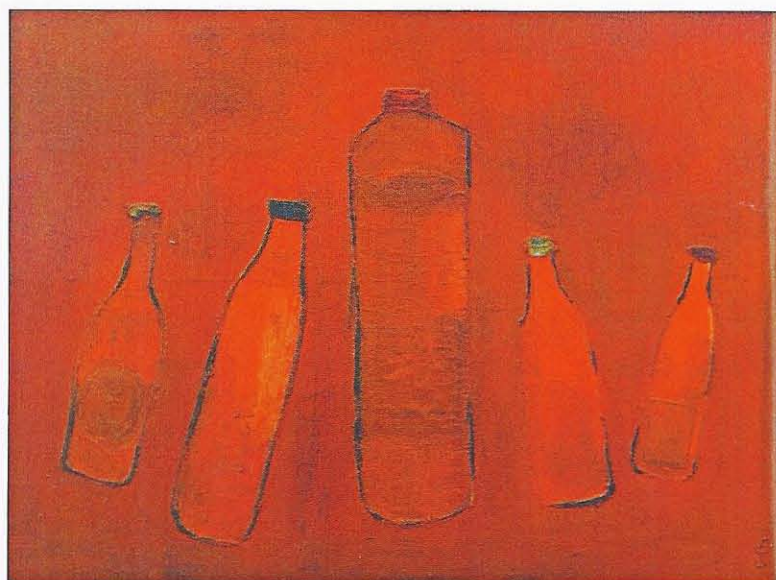


Upon entering the home of Lighthouse Point landscape artist Jean Claude Boutrouille, you can tell an abstractionist lives here. Of course, there's the artwork by local artists he's collected from his worldwide travels expertly displayed on various walls throughout the home, the bright bold colors of the walls, the Ecuadorian rug designed to look like a painting based on the bold colors that this man wholeheartedly appreciates, but it's seeing Steve Martin's novel, *"An Object of Beauty,"* a tale set in the Manhattan art world, halfway read through that's sitting on his coffee table that makes one realize the depth of his devotion to his chosen discipline. He immerses himself in it; he's part of it and possesses the talent to become a great historical presence in it.

His home is always filled with music, whether it's jazz riffs sifting through the air or selections from his favorite classical musician Johannes Brahms — and the music does have an inspiring effect on his work.

"Music plays in this house twenty-four hours a day," Boutrouille said. "Maybe the jazz and classical music does subconsciously influence my work because anything is possible. Improvisational jazz is like abstract art. Particularly when I start a painting I have a few ideas for creating a certain type of landscape, but I have to see the result. In this way my work is completely abstract like in jazz where you start without any hesitation. Sometimes I feel it's ready but I'm not sure, so if I work three or five more hours on it and find if this is true then I have to discard it. There's no question when you have to start over."

The man's work is stirring and it's hard to believe he has to discard any of it. But just like his idol, Pablo Picasso, who was apt to discard his own work if he was dissatisfied with it, the student follows in the teacher's footsteps. The resemblance between these two artists doesn't stop here.

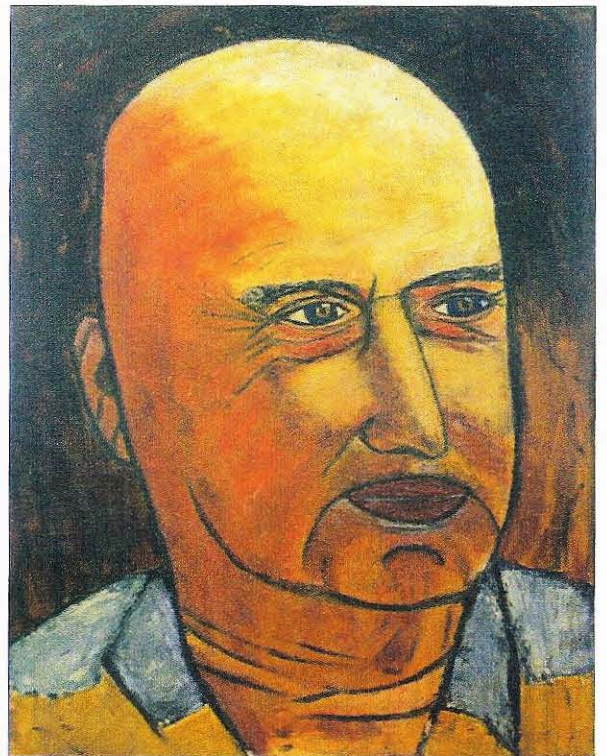
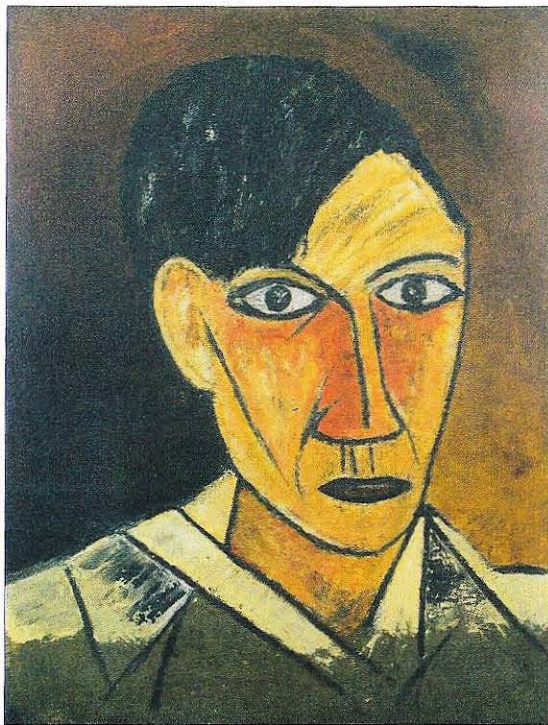


They've each cultivated a highly intuitive use of the abstract with a need to paint.

In Boutrouille's office, his self-portrait in black oil on canvas titled *"Portrait of the Artist as an Old Man"* is displayed on the left side of his desk and his portrait of Picasso that he has titled *"Pablo Picasso Young"* is on the right. "I have no formal training and I wanted to know if I could do a portrait. I did these two at the same time," he explained. "I think I started my self-portrait first. As a joke I thought I'd look like Picasso in it." In fact, he does and the resemblance is uncanny. "This portrait of Picasso is based on the one that he did of himself probably in 1922," he continued. "I did the portrait of myself in the same pose with the same style and color."

"I've always been interested in art. Art is the meaning of my life. I don't watch TV, go to games, or read best-sellers," Boutrouille said. "When I lived in Paris in the sixties, it was a very nurturing time," he reminisced. "I had a very good teacher in high school who taught me about artists like





*Continues on page 40*



# JEAN CLAUDE BOUTROILLE

*Continued from page 35*

Renoir. I'm not someone who likes museums. They're too big for me as I'm sort of a recluse. I prefer to see the painter or to see a painting at a gallery."

Boutroille was born in Orleans, France, a location with an oceanic climate which is fifty minutes south of Paris, attended high school at Lycee Pothier and later attended the Faculte de Pharmacie de Paris. "I spent two years in the French-Algerian War and was about twenty-six when I became a pharmacist and began collecting a little bit. I didn't have a lot of money and for a small fee I could purchase an etching at best. At that time I didn't know that I had the ability to paint."

After becoming a pharmacist and working as one in Orleans you could say he lived a bit of a nomadic lifestyle. "I've lived in the French Riviera, I worked two years in Cannes, I was a pharmacist for a time in the West Indies and moved to Martinique because it was too expensive to buy a pharmacy in France, and I stayed almost twenty years," he said. "My wife Jacqueline was family physician in Fort de France where our daughter Benedicte was born."

It was an employment opportunity for his wife, who was now a psychiatrist that brought Boutroille and his family to America. "In 1990 we moved to Charleston, S.C. which is a beautiful city and a nice place for the education of our daughter," he explained. "We became proud U.S. citizens in 1998 and a job offer in Coral Springs brought us to Florida. We wanted to live near the water and discovered the serene beauty of Lighthouse Point. My motto is always live south and near the seaside."

He thought living in S.C. was south enough, but he wanted to be in a much warmer climate, but at this point his venture into a new livelihood had begun. "I started painting around 2000 while I was living in Charleston. I was investing in the stock market and was told that it would be more difficult to buy at this time so I decided that I'd have to do something myself. I worked part time handling paperwork for my wife and in the afternoon I'd have time to paint."

This self-taught artist is a man of few words, and whose work transcends language. He's had his work on display in numerous galleries, and six of his large format pieces called "Canned Oxygen" will be on exhibit at the Icosahedron Gallery in NYC in the heart of SOHO next month. For information on where you can find his work in Florida and more, go to these websites: [absolutearts.com](http://absolutearts.com) or [jeanclaudearts.com](http://jeanclaudearts.com).

