



Artist's Vision Transforms Town Hall

Alan Maltz's "Old Florida" Tapestries Showcase Nature's Beauty

Eight Inspired Tapestries

Ocean Reef Club's Town Hall has a wonderful new look, thanks to an inspired collaboration between Ocean Reef Club's House and Grounds Committee and noted fine art photographer Alan Maltz. Club President Paul Astbury worked with Maltz, best known for his Florida nature and wildlife photography, to create a series of eight large-scale tapestries for the 7,500 square-foot ballroom and meeting facility. "The Club was looking to dress the room in a way that would bring the natural surroundings found in the Florida Keys indoors, while not distracting from the customized decorations that are used when we host meetings, weddings, private events and club activities," says Astbury.

"Since this was my first venture into tapestries, it was an exciting challenge for our gallery," said Maltz. "We knew that Town Hall needed an identity, yet the artwork we created had to be flexible, large scale and easily removed to accommodate the various events."

Sepias Blend with Color

Maltz is known for his vibrant, colorful photography, and for this commission he chose a mix of Florida and Everglades imagery. However, after submitting his first piece for Town Hall, it was clear that full color wasn't



Artist Alan Maltz with two of the eight tapestries in Town Hall.

appropriate for this venue. "I went back to the drawing board and, after several weeks of discovery and experimentation, created a solution: a blend of sepia tones and muted colors." It was an entirely new genre for Maltz, created exclusively for Ocean Reef Club.

The new look has the appeal of a vintage hand-tinted photograph, reminiscent of Old Florida. "For me as an artist, it brings to light a feeling, a style and an essence — a heart-tugging pull to a simpler, freer life," said Maltz.

The series of eight large-scale fine art murals, which range in size from 10' x 6.5' to 17' x 8', debuted this summer. The response to the work has been enthusiastic, and those who gathered for the first Town Hall meeting in November were inspired by

their scale and subject matter. "The scenes of the surrounding area provide the perfect backdrop for this multipurpose venue," said Astbury. "Members have said they love the work."

Inspires New "Old" Collection

While Maltz created the Old Florida look for Ocean Reef Club, he found the results so compelling that he expanded his portfolio to include the "Old Florida Collection," with 25 additional works of art in this new format. "One of the images, the 'Bahia Honda Sunrise,' has become one of my most popular pieces in the collection," said Maltz.

The installation in Town Hall represents a return to Ocean Reef for Maltz, who has a mural-size work of art on permanent exhibition in Great Heron Hall. Installed in 2007,

the canvas piece, "Guiding Light," measures 12' x 8', and is also the cover art for his photography book *Visions of Beauty - Fort Myers, Sanibel & Beyond...*

Maltz resides near Key West, where his fine art is featured in his gallery on Duval Street. He has earned the designation of Official Wildlife Photographer of Florida by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, as well as Official Fine Art Photographer for the State of Florida by VISIT FLORIDA. Maltz's art is represented in private, public and corporate collections throughout the world, and he is the author of five award-winning photography books. To learn more about Maltz and his work, visit: www.alanmaltz.com or call the gallery at: (305) 294-0005.