RICK DEMONT

Aspen Summer
watercolor on paper

Image Courtesy of the Artist

"When I paint, I am creating a visual translation of my experience. Using color, I am trying to capture nature's dance... with all of its rhythm, tempo and intervals. The experience of light, space, movement and sound are also gathered on to the surface. The primal landscape is the main focus.
My paintings are an invitation to the viewer to have their own experience of the illusion. I want the process of my painting to be visible. My application is direct and spontaneous... allowing the paint and colors to communicate. Each painting is a meditation and a celebration."

Rick DeMont was born in San Francisco in 1956. He was exposed to the art world at an early age by his painter/photographer Grandmother. Mr. DeMont, a former Olympic and World Champion swimmer, attended the University of Arizona on a swimming scholarship where he received a B.F.A in 1979. He has been living in the Sonoran Desert ever since. Rick DeMont's paintings have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States. In addition, his works are in public, private and corporate collections. Mr. DeMont is an honorary member of the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild.

Aside from his artistic endeavors, Rick DeMont was also a former standout swimmer at the University of Arizona. He collected numerous titles during his swim career, including National, Pan-American, World and Olympic champion. Following his senior year in high school, he was named World Swimmer of the Year. DeMont also pioneered negative split swimming (swimming a faster second half of a race than the first). In 1973, DeMont commandeered a world record in the 400m free and, in the process, became the first man in history to swim that race in less than four minutes with a time of 3:58.18. In the late 1980s, DeMont was inducted into the World Swimming Hall of Fame. During his tenure with the UA program, he has coached an amazing 22 U.S. Swimming and NCAA individual national champions, as well as numerous national champion relay squads. In September of 1999, DeMont was inducted into the University of Arizona Athletic Hall of Fame and in April 2008 he was inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

To learn more about Rick and his work, visit http://rickdemontart.com/
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Hidden Beach
watercolor on paper

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Riparian Sagueros
watercolor on paper

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Waiting for the Sun
watercolor on paper

From the TOHONO CHUL exhibition
Sonoran Stories

"March morning, cold, deep in the canyon.... I sit, waiting for the sun. A human version of a reptiles morning. Waiting for the sun. Keeping an eye on the shade as it travels down the mountainside. Waiting for the sun to warm me and my cold stiff joints so that I can finish the painting and get out of the canyon. And ... I ponder.... knowing this has been experienced by Sonoran Desert people since the beginning. Waiting for the sun."

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