

# Lon Michels, Gallery on Greene, Nance Frank

Wednesday, December 8, 1999

## LON MICHELS

The outrageous demands of painting with a fresh style is never more clearly defined than when one paints where others have painted before. Combine, a love of Key West and mix in many other landscape painters to create a situation that requires the feel of a surgeon and the guts of a bullfighter to create fascinating Key West historic scenery. And in 1999, the best bullfighting surgeon is Lon Michels.

Lon Michels made his start at an early age and has worked refining and mastering his style ever since. Today, he depicts scenes from his every day life; from a storefront to a garden to a friend's portrait or simply his rendition of himself. A palette of strong colors add charm and happiness to each painting and most importantly, his own style.

His early influences come from his parents; his mother, a painter & ceramist, his father a stone mason.. Lon attended Ripon College where he painted under his strongest influence; professor of art emeritus, Olympia Ogilvie whose determination as an artist sculpted Lon into the illustrious painter he has become. Later, in New York, he found himself working for the late Louise Nevelson, whose genius in shape and form inspired Lon to create a sense of movement adding to the colors he so enjoys.

Emerging in Key West, his work reveals a sense of euphoria often passed on to the observer. In his own words Lon says: "I feel with any work of art, the piece should speak for itself, and to the viewer. The artist may not always be around to explain the action or intent I hope my work speaks to you."

Lon is one artist who has always been sure of himself. He has never doubted he would be acclaimed for his work hoping that very soon his work will be hanging in major museums, a firm believer that one day he will reach the rank of Picasso or even Matisse whose elements he combines in his work.

Lon Michels believes that "a great artist... needs great material" (both medium & subject)... and into this circular mix comes the best gallery. Lon's new series, "Key West" just arrived at The Gallery, on Greene at 606 Greene St., near the historic seaport.