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Jennifer Clinard and Jill Quadagno present their 'Painting Paradise'

Local artists' landscapes of North Florida displayed in ArtPort Gallery

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Pictured above is one of Jill Quadagno's landscape paintings in her and Jennifer Clinard's ArtPort Gallery exhibit, 'Painting Paradise.' / Photo courtesy of COCA.

Written by
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Staff Writer

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The newest exhibit at Tallahassee Regional Airport's ArtPort Gallery, 'Painting Paradise,' features landscapes by artists Jennifer Clinard and Jill Quadagno. Open since Sept. 12, the exhibit will remain open to the public until Nov. 5. The gallery is free and accessible daily from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Both Clinard and Quadagno are local artists who dedicate their art to the beauty of Tallahassee.

"Both of these women have been creating artwork for most of their lives," Education and Exhibitions Director for the Council on Culture and Arts Amanda Thompson said. "They are actively involved in



One of Jennifer Clinard's landscapes from the 'Painting Paradise' exhibit. / Photo courtesy of COCA

numerous local and regional organizations including the Alla Prima Landscape Group, the Artist's League of Tallahassee, the LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts, the Artist's Guild of the Gadsden Arts Center and Tallahassee Sketchcrawl Group."

Clinard has spent thirty years working on art for film and theatre in San Francisco. She's painted and sculpted for the San Francisco Ballet and San Francisco Opera.

"She gradually worked her way into film and has worked as an artist on many different movie sets including *Basic Instinct* and *Nightmare Before Christmas*," said Thompson.

Clinard later moved back to Tallahassee, where she attended college, to begin painting landscapes.

Quadagno has been supported creatively by her two aunts who were professional artists; she has spent the majority of her life immersed in the art world.

"In Jill's professional life, she is a professor of sociology at FSU, an internationally recognized expert and advisor to several U.S. presidents on topics relating to aging, and an author," said Thompson. "In her creative life, Jill is particularly fascinated by light and she strives to capture the lushness of the local area. She views writing and art as different but complementary forms of creative expression."

The exhibit's title, 'Painting Paradise,' refers to the beautiful scenery found throughout North Florida, from Apalachicola to St. George Island and St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.

"There's a quiet beauty in the rural farms, the coastal fishing boats and the windswept dunes," said Thompson. "Even a rusty shed or salt-scrubbed beach cottage has an elegance that painters clamor to get on canvas. We are exceptionally lucky to live where we do, and for artists, it's just heaven."

Quadagno and Clinard's style of painting is called *Plein Air*, centered on creating artwork on location.

"This firsthand observation allows artists like Jennifer Clinard and Jill Quadagno to capture atmospheric conditions, light and the beautiful scenery that surrounds us in North Florida," said Thompson. "These two artists have an essential spontaneity which they use to record and interpret the mood, mystery and uniqueness of our rapidly disappearing wild places."

'Painting Paradise' is one of many exhibits presented by COCA, a local arts agency in Tallahassee, throughout the course of the year.

Every summer, local artists, both professional and novice, are invited to submit their work to be selected for exhibition in the ArtPort Gallery and City Hall gallery.

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