

Richard Rochkovsky, Plein Air Artist (simply—he goes "out there" to paint)

Richard was born in 1948 in the seashore resort town of Belmar, New Jersey.

"My earliest painting memories are from painting with my Dad on the beach, feeling the sun on my face, the wind in my, at that time, blond hair, and the sand under my feet - the ocean was there to wash off the inevitable mess. I haven't outgrown any of it, including the mess."

Graduating with a **Bachelor of Architecture** and enough credits for a Minor in Art from the **University of Virginia** in 1972, he subsequently became a licensed Architect in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the States of Washington and Hawaii.

He participated in a long running show at Puuopelu (Richard Smart's Mansion in Waimea), and has been coordinator of the **West Hawaii Plein Air Painters** for about 5 years. WHPAP paints on site at locations from Honaunau to Kawaihae every Friday from 9am until 12:30pm, with a critique of that day's work after. Painters are encouraged to finish a piece in one session's time and given direction when asked.

Richard also publishes a weekly newsletter and manages the website: <http://theislandartist.blogspot.com> by posting photos of the previous session, articles, and his own work. He is also the painting Instructor for the group **Painting Out There**, a plein air workshop group that takes place every month or so, according to the need.

The workshops include demonstrations in watercolor, oil, or mixed media, with individual instruction, and a final critique for a small fee.

"I don't paint things the way they look – I paint them the way they are."

"I remember painting on the beach at the Jersey Shore when I was just a kid with my Dad. The intervening years kind of took that away until I started painting plein air again about 4 years ago and rediscovered the warmth and excitement of those moments. For me, painting furiously and intensely for 3 hours, trying to capture the ever changing moods and character of a scene, is the culmination of everything that I've done and know – the challenge, of course, is to forget all of that and just paint – after all, it's just light, isn't it?"

"Many people find Hawaii to be a peaceful and restful place, while I find painting here to be loaded with energy and excitement. My paintings are filled with adjacent complimentary colors and warm shadow work that reflect the vibrancy of the scene and the excitement of the moment."

For information about the **West Hawaii Plein Air Painters** group or **Painting Out There** teaching workshops, please call: **808-895-4985**,

or email: **art@the-architect.us**,

and visit his website at: **<http://www.theislandartist.blogspot.com>**.