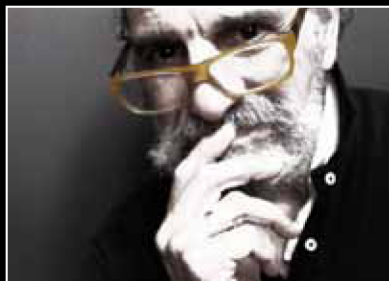




PICTURED: Oil on canvas paintings by Tom DePaul, "Her Books" and "Self Portraits".

Tom DePaul

AS AN ARTIST, TOM DEPAUL IS ACUTELY AWARE of the complexities and contradictions that lie beneath the surface of life.



Describing his art as self-evaluation work, the struggle of peeling back the layers to discover his essential nature is a core theme of Tom's oeuvre.

"I am trying to figure out who I am."

Evidenced by how he describes his painting

process, there is a physicality and vulnerability to Tom's art.

Entering his studio with a keen sense of the task before him, Tom admits, "I am intimidated by the blank canvas. I have to force myself to begin this work — but thirty seconds into it, I'm home."

As his studio work unfolds, Tom's initial trepidation is soon replaced with a sense of harmony: "When I paint and draw, I'm really dancing with the canvas."

Tom's art seeks to discover the essential humanity lodged within the human form. Excavating with his paintbrush for fundamental truths, Tom explains: "I feel like my work emerges from the canvas as if I'm pulling it through from the other side."

With the incarnate form as his means for discovery, Tom's primarily figurative art helps explore and deepen the artist's understanding of human relationships.

A key relationship which both inspires and is often represented in Tom's paintings is that with his wife and fellow artist, Kim DePaul: "Kim is my muse. I can't paint without her."

Five or six years ago, Kim urged her husband to return to his old love: painting. And though he has been deeply invested in a lifetime of creative work through his successful Lancaster firm, DePaul Planning & Design, Tom notes that the two endeavors are not the same: "My business is creative work, but unlike painting, it has rules."

And, so, independent of his business, Tom is one of those few souls with the unique satisfaction of continually returning to his study of the inner man, discovering with each brushstroke his own set of rules as they emerge from the canvas.