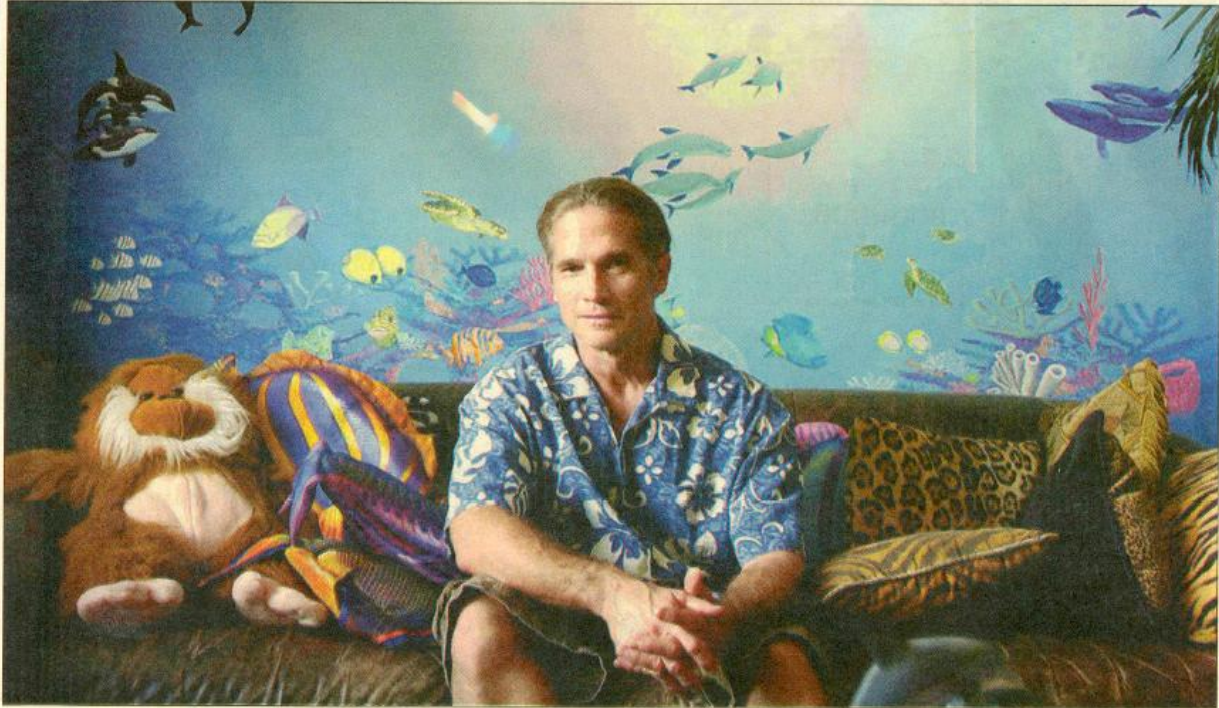


# People

## Royal Palm Beach artist jumps at chance to 'Wing It'



**FEATURED ARTIST:** Artist Rick Evans sits in his Royal Palm Beach home. Evans' work is on display at Palm Beach International Airport, as part of the Art in Public Places program.

Staff photo/Matt Dean

**BY MICHAEL DAVIS**  
FORUM STAFF WRITER

**R**ick Evans walked through the Palm Beach International Airport concourse and noticed art adorning the walls.

"As I was walking by this exhibit, I wondered how I could get involved," said Evans, who lives in Royal Palm Beach. "The theme was underwater life and tropical, and that is what I paint."

The Palm Beach County Art in Public Places program offered him an answer.

Program officials invited Evans to submit a piece of his artwork to the "Wing It" exhibit, which is on display through Thursday in the airport's concession mall on the second level of the main terminal.

The exhibit depicts the birds in South Florida's waterways and skies. The art is for sale.

"I actually painted my painting to match the theme," Evans said. "I imagine a lot of people just dust off a painting and bring it in."

Evans' acrylic painting, "Brown Pelicans," shows two pelicans floating together.

"I had some reference pictures of pelicans that I had cut out," he said. "I have stacks of reference photos, so I had some kind of idea of what I wanted."

Evans, 52, manages a Palm Beach estate full-time, but said he devotes nights and weekends to his passion.

He has added murals to his portfolio, and one mural was completed by coincidence.

"My daughter needed braces and I had already paid \$5,000 for my older daughter to have braces," he said. "It just so happened that the orthodontist was remodeling his office. I suggested a mural for one of the exam rooms."

Evans received the go-ahead, and started the mural as soon as the office closed for the day. For two months, he created an underwater scene.

"It's very popular," Dr. Scott McCranels said.

"People are always commenting about it and everyone just wants to take a close look. It took Rick a lot of man-hours to finish, and it was very interesting to see the progression."

McCranels Orthodontics in West Palm Beach

features an ocean theme complete with underwater scenes and authentic surfboards on display.

Evans said that while working on murals is more difficult than work he can complete at home, the time and energy is well-spent.

"It was a long project," he said. "The mural would change overnight when I was working it. People were always guessing what I was going to do next. Now that I have more time to devote to painting, I'd like to get involved in more shows. I want to get my name out. I think that's the key. You have to show your work somewhere."

Palm Beach County Art in Public Places Administrator Elayna Toby Singer said the airport show has been a success.

"Clearly it went well for [Evans]," Singer said. "We had 43 entries and 23 were picked for the show."

Each show has a different theme, and PBIA exhibits change three times a year.

For information about Art in Public Places, call 561-233-0235.