

Art World News

ART BY DAN MACKIN AND BRIAN WILSON

American Royal Arts, Boca Raton, FL, and artist Dan Mackin are collaborating with legendary singer, songwriter Brian Wilson to create a series of giclées on canvas in editions of 500 based on Wilson's music. The images are interpretations of four of the the songwriter's lyrics, entitled "Surfing USA," "Surfer Girl," "In My Room," and "God Only Knows," all big hits and synonymous with the beach lifestyle.

The project came about when American Royal Arts' COO Jim Lentz, a friend of Mackin for many years, came up with the idea of the collaboration as a form of therapy for Mackin after the sudden death of his 14-year-old son. "This project has helped me immensely to heal and create something that I can be passionate about again," says Mackin. "I had become deeply depressed and just couldn't bring myself to start painting. When Jim called and said that he had an idea, I was a little reluctant. But working with Brian is an amazing honor."

Mr. Lentz felt that to put Wilson and Mackin together would be a perfect match as both were highly influenced by the surfing culture. "For 40 years Brian has created the southern California way of life, and Dan's paint-

ings center around the water from his travels to beaches around the world. Putting the two together seemed like a

different ways to give a Caribbean feel." Mr. Lentz set up a meeting where the two could sit down and



Photo by David Pruiksmma

Musician Brian Wilson signs limited editions of "God Only Knows" with the assistance of artist Bob Mackin.



Bob Mackin's "In My Room" from American Royal Arts.

perfect pairing," Mr. Lentz says. "Dan has always had the ability to use six colors and mix them hundreds of

see if the project would work. Mr. Wilson was in Orlando, FL, to make an appearance on the television show

Extreme Makeover-Home Edition where he played a nighttime concert at Disneyland for children that are allergic to the sun. There the two were able to discuss the music and look at Mackin's sketches. Dan left the meeting feeling excited and renewed and immediately began painting.

"Each painting is my interpretation of the song," Mackin says. "When Brian saw the final pieces he noticed all of the little things that I included such as in 'Surfing USA' he saw that I had painted signs of each of the beach locations that are mentioned in the song, in the right order, and pointing in the right direction.

"He was like a little kid. I also learned some new things along the way. I didn't know how to paint the sheer curtains that were needed for 'In My Room,' so my wife draped some over the sides of one of my paintings. That way I was able to get the right perspective."

Plans are in the works for more collaborative limited editions. The series of four available now range in size from 24 by 36 inches to 30 by 44 inches, and in price from \$2,500 to \$3,400. For details, call (561) 869-0600 or: www.ara-wholesale.com.