

## LES ARTISANS

## Elegance In Art And Jewels



**E**stablished in 1994, Les Artisans combines unique international collections of handcrafted jewelry and an art gallery in a beautiful historic building on Rue General du Gaulle in the center of Gustavia. In addition to showcasing exquisite pieces created by its owners, Albert and Jo-Anne, whose custom designs embrace pearls, diamonds, precious stones, and gold, Les Artisans also features the work of an international group of artists, whose work ranges from oils and pastels that capture the spirit of the island to contemporary sculpture in bronze and stainless steel.

Oil paintings by French artist Alain Le Chatelier range from whimsical garden scenes to his most recent collection based on images of St Barth. He also creates paintings that channel

the spirit of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, a 16th-century Italian painter, known for his optical illusions. Le Chatelier has mastered the same technical skills of trompe-l'œil displayed by Arcimboldo, as well as a fanciful sense of humor and vibrant color palette.

Beautiful oil pastels by French painter Gery Langlais also capture the spirit of Saint Barth. Inspired by the light and landscapes on the island, he has painted scenes from the airport, a view from Grand Fond toward Petite Saline, Le Select, and Shell Beach, to the salt pond in Saline, Marigot Bay, Ile Coco, a traditional house painted tropical blue, Eden Rock, and a majestic mango tree in a garden in Colombier.

Figurative painter Jean-Yves Lefort also uses oils in his canvases of

Saint Barth, once again concentrating on landscapes and seascapes that echo his love for sailing and the sea. There is a feeling in his choice of colors and composition that evoke his childhood in Africa (Congo). Reflections of the water in various shades of blue create a stunning backdrop for many of his paintings.

Bronze and stainless steel abstract sculptures by New York-based artist Dave Stevenson include Raptor and Chimera, mysterious steel shapes, as well as a modular bronze sculpture series, Méduse. His work is majestic in a contemporary way, and the patina on the bronze or the coolness of the stainless steel makes his sculptures unique as well as visually captivating.

Modern abstract sculpture by Jean Martin, Tangle is based on

curves, like an endless knot forged from one single tube that has no start or finish. Another sculpture, Premice 2, is like a faucet or pipes with 45-degree angles, with a surrealist twist, as if made by a crazy plumber or inspired by Terry Gilliam's cult film, Brazil.

The latest artist to join Les Artisans is Stanislas Defize, who first sailed into Saint Barth 35 years ago and began painting what he saw. His work captures the "old Saint Barth," immortalizing the architecture and the ambiance of the island as he first saw it and remembers it, in paintings and prints that exhibit a sense of precise realism that it is almost photographic. He also paints the sea as seen from St Barth, and St Barth seen from the sea, once again embracing the essence of the island.

