

By Laura Shabott

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Master artist Paul Resika focuses on Provincetown in new show at Walker Gallery

Over the past six decades, artist Paul Resika has earned and enjoyed much acclaim on the Cape, across the country and abroad. His upcoming show at the Berta Walker Gallery, "Colors and Forms of Provincetown," focuses on Provincetown subjects in honor of the 100th anniversary of Provincetown Art Association & Museum.

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"There will be several examples of his fishing boats that will go from representational to highly abstract," says gallery owner Berta Walker. "In his paintings, two boats are often seen nestled together on a backdrop with no horizon line. Water and sky are the same color and texture. The boats could be emerging from fog or about to be swallowed up by it."

Resika, a master painter, started painting when he was nine years old. At the age of 11, he studied with Sol Wilson. In his teens, Resika was a student and an apprentice of abstract expressionist Hans Hofmann. His one-man show of paintings at Manhattan's George Dix Gallery, before his 20th year, affirmed Resika's path as a serious artist. Today, he divides his time between New York and Provincetown.

It is the love of paint — brush or line, flat or textured, thick or liquid — combined with a deep knowledge of the medium that allows him to create something magical again and again. His forms representing flowers, piers, nudes, boats, lighthouses, the sun and the moon are saturated planes of color that vibrate on the canvas.

"A lot of people try to copy my pictures or are very influenced by them," he says. "I don't find anything wrong with that. I think I tried to paint like Corot for 10 to 15 years. They used to say I was married to Corot."

"I don't think being an artist has anything to do with being original," he says. "People overprize originality. I think you are an artist or you're not an artist. Some people get it a couple of times in their lifetime and others get it a thousand times. That's my opinion from deep in my old-age perspective, and I think I know something about this."



PHOTO/ PAUL RESIKA,VARUJUN BOGHOSIAN,PROVINCETOWN,BERTA WALKER GALLERY

Artists Paul Resika (right) and Varujun Boghosian.

Just the facts

What: "Colors & Forms of Provincetown"Where: Berta Walker Gallery, 208 Commercial St., ProvincetownWhen: 7-9 pm Friday, Aug. 1

<http://wellfleet.wickedlocal.com/article/20140801/NEWS/140739513>