

## **CHRISTENSEN, TETON CLUB FIND PERFECT MATCH**

*Landscape painter hangs variety of work in upscale Village Club.*

*By Teddy Parker-Renga*

*Jackson Hole News and Guide Weekly Newspaper, Dated September 7, 2005*

The walls of the Teton Club's first floor common areas are alive with art. Colorful landscapes of high mountain lakes, vibrant coastline sunsets and lush pristine valleys have turned the lobby, hallways and Great Room into a fine art gallery.

Since mid-June, 68 oil paintings by acclaimed landscape painter Scott Christensen have graced the walls of the Teton Club in an exhibit that is largely for viewing purposes only.

"We basically are keeping pieces of art up the public to see, for people to look at and not feel like they have to go buy it," said Christensen in a phone interview while painting off the coast of Northern California.

Few of the oil paintings in the exhibit are for sale, but for Christensen, it's not about selling artwork. He said the exhibit is an opportunity for art collectors and the general public to see a wide variety of his work in a pressure-free environment.

"It's more about matchmaking than trying to sell," he said. "It lets you see more of the artist that way. I think, so often times, if I'm going to do an exhibition, it might be for only a week or two – and I do have success at them – but you only see my work for a week or two and might not get to see me for another year."

This way, people can view a large cross section of his work at their leisure; with all summer to check out the exhibit.

Diane Peterson, marketing consultant for the Teton Club, encourages people to grab a cocktail or glass of wine at the bar and tour the exhibit. For collectors, "seeing 50(plus) pieces in one location is rare," she said.

Both Peterson and Christensen agree that the exhibit is a great meeting ground for them. "It's a win-win in our demographics, It's a good match," Peterson said. Teton Club owners appreciate fine art and have the means to purchase Christensen's work," she said. "We're really fortunate to have Scott, to have his artwork this summer."

While this is not the first time the Club has featured art, "it's never quite happened quite like this." Peterson said.

The Teton Club recently installed new and better lighting to provide a "real true, museum-quality exhibit space" for Christensen and other artists. And due to the exhibit's success, Christensen's work will hang an extra two weeks into mid-October, and he will be featured in the Club again next summer.

For Christensen, the exhibit fits the “slowed-down pace” he’s been taking lately. He said he’s still painting a lot but is being selective about what he puts on the market.

Christensen said he is grateful for all the support he has received from galleries in the past, “but their pace isn’t my pace now.”

Despite his relaxed demeanor, Christensen has been keeping busy. This summer he released a book titled, *The Nature of Light* highlighting a variety of paintings from his expansive collection. In fact, 30 paintings included in the book are hanging at the Teton Club.

Christensen said the book is part of entering this new phase and a “cleansing of past work.”

“It’s sort of like planting a flag and saying that’s what I’ve done up to this point.” He said.

At the time of the interview, Christensen, a Jackson resident, said he was planning to take pack horses into the Wind River Range this fall, near Big Sandy, to paint with local photographer Ed Riddell and his wife, Lee, a painter.

“Every place I go, I try to find places not everyone has been to, places no one has painted yet,” he said, “Inspiration comes at odd times. ... I love the variety. I love finding the variety, the adventure type of thing,” locating a remote spot and painting a scene that others may pass by.

Christensen will hold a book signing event for the *Nature of Light* from 5 – 7 p.m., September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Teton Club. For more information, call the Club Concierge at 734-9777 x511.

To learn more about Christensen, visit [www.christensenstudio.com](http://www.christensenstudio.com). For art acquisition inquiries, call 690-2001.