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coast

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It seemed fitting to ask island photographer Robert Mihovil to shoot this issue's cover of artist René Wiley for our story about why island painters are so drawn to the Gulf Coast. Mihovil, a freelance photographer, is known for capturing the historic architecture and natural beauty of the island. Mihovil's colorful imagery reflects the way he

sees and appreciates his hometown.

A fourth generation BOI (born on the island), Mihovil has roots here. He's had the same telephone number for 51 years. His work has achieved national recognition and has appeared in National Geographic, Newsweek, People, Texas Monthly and more.

We're happy to have Mihovil, who owns Mihovil Photography, on board. Look for his work on more Coast covers.



Brian Grant is the news editor for The Daily News and the lead designer for Coast magazine. Raised in the Pineywoods of East Texas, he's worked at newspapers across the state and lived in Nacogdoches, Austin, New Braunfels, San Antonio, Beaumont and Galveston. He now resides in the Clear Lake area. A pop culture and odd news junkie,

he loves trying new restaurants, cafes and coffee shops. He's a neophyte photographer, an amateur writer and professional naptaker. He has no pets and kills any plants unlucky enough to find themselves in his home.

Note from the editor

here's a well-known quote by French impressionist painter Renoir: "You come to Nature with all her theories, and she knocks them all flat."

I thought of Renoir's words as I interviewed artists for this issue's cover story: "Island Artists See the Light," page 6. Hurricane Ike knocked many island artists' notions about nature flat. Priceless works depicting serene seascapes and sunny beach scenes were lost to the murky surge. No one has calculated the financial or cultural loss of visual arts to Ike.

But the pull of the coast is more powerful than the threat of storms, some artists say.

New galleries have joined the established. Artists again have picked up their brushes.

Each has her own reasons for being here, but all give us a new look at an old city.

Artist René Wiley says she is drawn to the light on the coast.

"The Gulf Coast sky provides the essential light that gives color to ordinary subjects."

Island native Suzanne Peterson says Galveston is the art.

"It is a jewel of a city with its colors, shapes, history and natural beauty," Peterson said. It is impossible to interview all the artists in



Galveston and throughout the county. But from this issue forward, we hope to introduce readers to artists and artisans, writers, dancers and actors, all who see the coast in their own way.

We'll continue to feature the beautiful houses, the fabulous food, interesting people and places that make the coast an inspiration.

And we'd also like to see what you see in your coastal community.

Please submit your best photos that capture the beauty of the coast. We'll publish as many as we can.

We want your letters, too.

Please send ideas about what you'd like to read and learn about and what you liked and didn't like in each issue.

Submit it all to coast@galvnews.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laura Elder, editor

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