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Surfboard shaper launches new career

*BY SHAWNA S. KELSCH
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For Jim Hannan, 2006 was a promising start to what could prove to be an inspired new career in the arts.

"We sold six paintings last year, so my feeling is that it was a pretty good start," said the Indian Harbour Beach resident who works days as a surfboard shaper for RD Surf in Rockledge.

Hannan creates his paintings during his spare time in a makeshift studio in his garage.

The avid surfer's art showcases his love of the ocean, and shades of colors permeate his paintings. He uses resin mixed with color pigments and a chemical hardener to bring life to a white cloth canvas. The resulting works are luminous, shimmering waters and rolling waves with depth and multidimensional perspectives.

"He spent years on a Navy submarine and worked for the government of the Bahamas doing water testing," said his brother, Richard Hannan of Indialantic, a medical sales representative/surgical technician, who helps market the works by introducing the paintings to members in the arts and medical community.

Hannan, 47, has lived beachside for almost 40 years. He knows the local community well and has gained some exposure through local art shows.

"My first show was in June 2006 at East Coast Coffee and Tea in Indian Harbour Beach. I got a lot of attention for that and sold one painting (from a two-week display)," he said.

In an effort to help a local cause and introduce more people to his work, Hannan recently donated a painting to the Candlelighters of Brevard to use at an art auction in an upcoming fundraiser.

"It's great to be able to give back in the community. I'm happy to help Candlelighters," a local organization that provides aid and support to families of children who have cancer.

Hannan's work also was featured last July in the highly acclaimed Melbourne Museum of Art and Science's show "Eternal Summer: The Art of Surf Culture." He since has had some of his artwork placed in the Beach Culture 101 gallery in Cocoa Beach, which is owned by show curator Bruce Reynolds.

"That show is going to Pensacola next summer and I'm really excited to be a part of such an innovative and creative show. It's humbling," he said.

To view Hannan's work, visit his Web site at www.oceanimpressionsart.com
