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SOUTHCOAST Artists Index

This story was collected through our partnership with the SouthCoast Artist Index, led by Ron Fortier.

These transcripts were produced using the Zoom transcription feature.

Interviewer Name: Ron Fortier

Storyteller Name: David Dauer

Ron Fortier

Hi, this is Ron Fortier again with another guest, a brand new guest actually it's a brand new really old guest. I don't mean like an age. I've known David for 40 years or I think yes, yeah, yeah. It's over 40 years and.

David Dauer

18 months, 18 years old and and yourself?

Ron Fortier

Yeah, yeah. So I'm going to let him introduce himself. And as I do on, on, on a lot of these, have him say, his name, spell his name because some people are only hearing this. And if they want to get in contact with Dave then. I mean, Arun Rath on WGBH for the whole longest time, I thought he was Amun RA, the Sun God. But anyway, so Dave, take it away and we'll take it from there.

David Dauer

OK, well, my name is Dave Dauer. DAUER grew up in Framingham. Massachusetts was born in Brooklyn, NY. Then I went to southeastern Massachusetts University, where I met Mr. Ron Fortier as an 18 year old puppy, went through the BFA program with Ron and I'm still connected with the most everyone I went to school with. Back then. I was off for about a year and then did master Fine Arts program and painting at. Kent State University in Ohio. And actually my connection there was through Evan Firestone, who was an art history professor at Southeastern Mass at the time. He brought that school up to me, and it was a good decision then. From there I came back home. I did get an offer to, to for a job in Waco, TX at the time, and it was a decision whether I wanted to take about a \$9000 a year job as an assistant. Art director not art director, art curator at a small museum in Waco or go home to New England and for the life of me I could. Think moving to Texas because I had this feeling, not that Texas is a bad place, but as a young kid. If I'd ever. Get out of there because you know, one job leads to another in an area and family is a big deal. So move to back to Massachusetts. Had a studio out of my parents garage was struggling. For a year and said uh. I was working in finance industry. Here's this artist for a company called Avco Financial Services at the time and became a manager. There and no one knew who I really was, and I ended up giving them a notice and saying I can't do this anymore and I decided to go back to school for design. It was not an easy decision. My dad wanted me to. Go visit an agency, see if anyone would hire somebody who didn't know anything about design because I was a painter and a print maker, so I. Actually went to a couple



of agencies, got advice and they said go back to school, pick up a year or two of courses. I went back to southeastern Massachusetts because it university, because the name still hadn't changed and started taking design courses. I called that I needed the vocabulary. Of design. So they wanted me to go into the newly formed graduate program. That was Dietmar Winkler sat me down and he said, David, you know you. Should pop. Why? Don't you become one of our our master candidates? And I said. Deep Mark, I don't. Need a masters degree. I have one and on paper no one would ever know. Because how I presented myself is I had an A BFA from UMass Dartmouth. I had a. A BFA from UMass Dartmouth, I had an MFA from Kent State and I had continued studies and design from SMU so that kind of looked. Kosher, as they say, ended up, you know, started freelancing, picked up jobs companies like Lechmere and others worked for a company that actually did what do you call it? Promotional pieces for companies? Did logos on toothpaste and. Pens and all sorts of weird stuff and ended up getting my first assistant art directors job at HE Harris Corporation in South Boston, and they made. Stamp kits for kids who collected stamps and one thing led to another got into the publishing industry and ended up as the art director, creative director for offshore communications for 25 years, which produced offshore magazine. Websites. Few other products had a long career. There really didn't paint. I had a couple of attempts. All those years had a family to. Who were a son and a daughter are now married, have our first grandchild, my wonderful wife Deb has always supported me and what I wanted to do. And then the recession of the late 2000, 2008 to 10 came, and the company folded. We had since been bought out by a company. And you know, it wasn't in their best interest to keep us going all. They kept the home company down in Annapolis, started a website with my partner at the time, who's the editor, Tom Richardson, called voting local and we were out of southeastern Mass. Tom lives in Marion to this day. And we. Developed a local news and voting website that did destinations and we went from zero. People looking at it to 60,000 a month, we sold it because we couldn't financially do it ourselves. It's actually still running today as a New England boating. Tom owns it with another partner and has started some other things TV. I did TV shows all sorts of stuff. I left it. Because the people who bought me didn't want to. My contract had ended and they just said we get some kid to do what you're doing. And there I was. It was kind of perfect timing because I was up for getting some major back surgery, which was going to lay me up. And as I was laying there. Said to myself self. What do you want to do with the? Rest of your life. I was in. My early 60s and. I said to my wife, hey, no one wants to hire an old guy and because they tried and tried, I was freelancing here and there again, but it wasn't worth the struggle in my mind. I said I want to. Start painting again and for my 50th birthday my wife had. Had a studio built in our home at the time we owned A2 family in Milton. Mass. We lived there for over. 35 years and I went down, fixed it up and. Gone into disarray and just started to paint. You know, once I was well, I told myself I told my wife when I get 10 paintings, I'll start a website. Started connecting with friends through Ron's recommendation. I ended up with my first Charlotte Cola Cola back in. I think it was February of 2017. Maybe it's 16. I don't remember anymore. Might have been 16.

Ron Fortier

Just about the year before I went to Portugal, yeah.

David Dauer

Yeah, and. Have been painting ever since. I've had lots of shows have gone into competitions. My we sold our house in 2000. August of 2019, Lucky for us, actually we're living in Canton, Mass in a rental at my studio down in the lower level. You know, unfortunate how coronavirus hit but it got I work backtrack a little bit in 2000. 17 In December, I actually. Getting antsy sitting in the basement of my house painting all day long. Seven day you. Know six days a. Week, whatever it was, and just wanted to get a job on the outside to get myself out, I figured I'd end up at stop and shop or something back in groceries, but I actually. Ended up with a part-time design job at. Dedham Health and Athletic Center in Dedham, Mass. Doing all their design work, and they keep me busy three days a week. However, with the virus, you know everything shut down and I'm back to working full time, but at the same time recently, I've started a new website. Through a company called Art storefronts, it's a bit of an investment in myself. But it's actually I went live with it on legally live, I guess on March 13th. So today is the 28th. I did my first E blast to friends and family and started pushing it around the 19th. And since then I've sold



three pieces of prints because you can get prints or. Or of my work or originals. I've been making videos I've. Always, you know. Made videos since boating local we did probably 80 or 90 videos back then, then how to's destinations so I've always been into time lapse showing the process of my work. So I've been doing videos. I saw the YouTube channel my website which is called DB Dour Studio store.com. I still have my old one out there and I have my Instagram, Facebook. Everything's under DB dower. The only thing that stores the store. And it's actually, I've got over 100 new subscribers. To my e-mail list people I don't know which is part of the plan and hopefully down the road I can have a little secondary in income from that I've, you know, the other day I got two prints sold and I was just like, whoa, I don't even know this person. They're from Texas. And I sent them out to thank you. And so hopefully. And the little more of that, just another way I've always tried to push different ways. How to get my artwork out there and for it to be sold at the gallery show in October, hopefully at the Lotus Gallery in Milton, which is in the town library. Someone supported the space. It's a nice. Spot not much else because there's not much else going on, so this turn down of because of the virus has given me the time to, you know, really bust and and push. I probably have. 150 pieces uploaded to the site and then finally gotten everything there. What's nice is even old work which I may not even own, but have the imagery on file or it's been I can set up things where people can buy prints so and what's sold was a couple watercolors. Not the originals. So I guess that's that's where I'm at and I meet with Ron and a couple of other people, few other people, about 10:00, we call the group tech them that we started. It came out of my show. We meet pretty much every quarter at someone else's studio throughout New England, actually and. Our next one looks like it's going to be a Skype meeting at one of our friends.

Ron Fortier

That's right. The first the first Skype meeting of the Techem group was when I was in.

David Dauer

All right. And it was at my studio in the basement and Ron and we're going to do a zoom this time, but we did it on Skype. Ron was in Portugal. We were about four people in my basement. Another artist, Adrian Kern and Lavalley, was up in Maine. And she was in there, and it was just. I remember putting, like a phone to a phone to show Adrian, Ron and Ron her cause. They were calling it ohh. She was on Facebook. And Ron was on Skype and we were sitting in there. They've turned into all day affairs. When we meet on a Sunday and we have food and talk, and I I know they could last for many hours and it's. They're all mostly people who we started out with when we were 18 years old, and it's part and we just had a show at the the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative from the group honoring our teachers. From SMU.

Ron Fortier

Could you tell them what techem stands for?

David Dauer

Techem stands for Tecum is capital T, Capital E, Capital C and Capital M and we all went to school at net, which is now UMass Dartmouth under the tutelage of T Edward Taglieri. E Willoughby, Elliot Elliot, Bill Elliott, C Herb Cummings, and M McCoy. Oh, Frank McCoy and all have since passed, Frank. I think the most recent in his 90s, Bill Elliott early in his 70s and Herb and. And tug years ago, they were all we were trying to come up with names because we were all from those classes and I think I said Tecom and every one said, what does it mean and? I said it's our. Tribute to them. And so our show at the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative. Denise Wilhelm, who is a member there, pushed for it, and she was a year behind us, so our group is comprised of artists who are in our painting class as printmakers illustrators. Illustrators start torn paint, turn painters. We have a person. Who's been on on South Coast? Bob Hardsky who? What's that? The seven. What's that thing? Seven of of Kevin Bacon. Well, six. There's a separate. Well, he's our Kevin Bacon because he was is very like minded and met one of our Patriots.

Ron Fortier

6 degrees, 6 degrees. Yeah, yeah.



David Dauer

Adrian, when she was in Graduate School at Maryland Institute, he was he was working but painted down there. And she saw him in a show that I was in a a regional show on the list of people and said, hey, Dave, but this is Barbara Desky lives in Milton. Bob has lived in Milton as long as I've lived in Milton. I never ran into him. He's a painter. He has. He had a full time job, but he had retired his daughter and my daughter knew each other. They were a year apart in school, but we never ran into each other. I mean, and it's not the biggest town in the world. And we've become good friends and we've become. Good friends with the all of us. You know, so.

Ron Fortier

Well, that's part and parcel what all of this is about the underpinnings of all of this. It is the six degrees of separation. It's imagine a combination of Facebook and ancestry linked together. We've already had a couple of guests who have had connections to the Maryland Art Institute. For example, there are people like who work in spheres, and these spheres never touch each other. They're they're very close to each other, and it's it's kind of interesting. And and that's. That's what I'd like to, you know, do is create this legacy, this, this collective digital archive specifically for artists in the South Coast to begin with. And I I believe that this can expand further and further out at some point, but let me go back in time and let's go back to SMU. And you, you've dropped a couple of names. Evan Firestone. Your recollections of Evan.

David Dauer

Well, he was a. Art history. You know, I took art history. All the required things, but. I always like to get my money's worth. Whatever I'm telling, it's kind of. So when I was in school after freshman year. I started taking electives. I would grab once I got those major, you know, boring. I guess in in our minds, our historical ancient artists and I started feeding and taking. As many art history classes as they could, I bet you if we went back into records I had as many. Art history classes that could have given me a minor photography history, you know, whatever it might have been. I mean it it, all that stuff leaves my mind over the years. However, if we're talking trivia, sometimes it comes right back. It even carried on. When I went to Kent State, my.

Speaker

Right, right.

David Dauer

The woman I my assist. I have an assistantship there and it allowed part of the assistantship was teaching. 2D design like and I used my 2 design design as a resource on different things that would teach, but I also got to work with this woman, Sheila Tabakov, who lives in Italy and bought a house back and she was about 10 years old. Other than me and she ran the galleries at Kent State and I got an assistantship and part of it was working with her and she was an art history teacher and. But I took so I took a art history class that was all about man. Ray, you know, talking about, you know, getting deep into things so. That was always a big part of stuff. So, Evan, getting back to him, I had taken, I forget which ones they were, but I took seminars that classes that art history majors and teachers were taking and we got to know each other. I went over his house once or twice and he said, hey, Dave, you know, have you ever. Thought of tense and and actually when I got out of school in 75, I applied to a bunch. Of places like everybody else, I couldn't get in. I didn't get in. I don't know why, I mean. My work was. A little all over the place that always had. I've always tried everything and never stuck with one look. I even now if you go to my website, I have my floral pieces. I have a little bit older, but you could see in like. Four years time I have abstracts. I have my floral pieces, which I'm heavy into and doing some, but prior to that I had a surrealistic and mythical stuff. That and doodles and. Now each one has its own body of work and I have lots of things in each. So that night, if even back then hurt me and.

Ron Fortier

Well, let's look back. So how, how, how, how did you fare with grating with him? He was a tough, tough.



David Dauer

Anything art? I got A's. In, OK, except for maybe those first foundation, our history courses with 200 people in them. I.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, yeah. Per year was. Yeah, each people.

David Dauer

They get my first year because that might have brought my grades down. It was more acclimating to school, but after that. I didn't see a AB. I got A's all the time. Him high grades even with him, and you have to test out in those. But I was very into it. I even you would think I wouldn't do good in my sciences because we had to take a science and I waited it out for four years. And then in the fourth year they came out with this class called Science and Society. Piety and SMU and I took it along with about 300 other people and it what? It fulfilled the science requirement and we had stuff like the hand reading and they brought in a hand reading the lines. I mean it was. It was a trip and everyone was ***** ** that took biology as a sophomore.

Ron Fortier

Yeah. How did you? How did you? I I don't remember that I, I mean cause I had. And yeah. And I remember because it was memorable, but I was also very aggravated cause I said why don't they have anatomy classes? Specifically for artists and that.

David Dauer

Yeah. Ohh that would be great but anyways.

Ron Fortier

Would make sense. So with Sanford Moss, who was the foremost shark expert in the United States at the time, and it's kind of weird cause of the University of Miami for the first 2-3, four months, Jaws had opened. When I got down there. And there were lines wrapped around the building 4 times. It was like this weird shark thing, but. So OK, so Evan Firestone.

David Dauer

Who recommended Kent State and I started looking into it and I got accepted and got my assistantship. And for \$250 a month, they paid me. They taught a couple classes, did a bunch of things and I. Had a room over. A Barber shop on Main Street? That's where I ended up in Kent, Ohio, and there was a nut store and not people, but real nuts below. And I had a studio two blocks away and I.

Ron Fortier

You were there after the Kent State.

David Dauer

Ohh yeah, seven. So I graduated 75. There was a year off 7 September 76. I was there and. I was there for two years.

Ron Fortier

Yeah. What do they refer to that as the Kent State massacre, the.

David Dauer

Yeah, yeah, yeah.



Ron Fortier

Yeah, the National Guard troops, my friend Peter. Born that went to the University of Miami with me was from Sandusky. OH, and he was in that National Guard unit there, and he swore that he had no idea what the heck happened. They heard a shot and all hell broke loose and something he carried with him for for, you know, till the end of his life, printmaker. It's funny because I I you reminded me that I forgot that you, you, you and I were both. That was like our second thing was printmaking. Have you gone back to it at all or?

David Dauer

Yeah. Yep. Not really, not really. It's just I have so much to do with when what I do at home and that would. The you know, having a press and it's an investment, you know, and space that I guess I could do some monoprints and different things, but I'm just busy enough with drawing and painting that I I it doesn't cry out to me, you know, back then we had to take it. I took it. I did lithography, I did etching. They did silk screen, I mean everything everybody else did and and did plenty of it at the time. You know, so. You know that that's not, I mean, the drawing and the, I mean. And the painting, I mean, my paintings have layers and building in in some ways not monoprints, but through canvas on canvas and accidents and different things. I'm satisfied.

Ron Fortier

I wanna I wanna speed 4 because, you know, just just having, you know, just reminiscing about SMU. It's great and I've done it so much about with, with Swains I mean a majority of our guests have been from Swain and you know, we had interactions with them. So you know we, we we could we could speak. To that, but one of the. One of the things that you mentioned is the art storefronts, and I'm sure people are curious because we've all seen the pop up ads on on Facebook. Do you feel comfortable talking about the investment in it in in? Both time and money.

David Dauer

Sure, sure. Well, I I investigated it almost at this point a year and a half ago and went through the whole thing and you see all that and all the. The the the the sale the sales pushes and all that and you know and I think on paper the in.

Ron Fortier

Success stories that put us.

David Dauer

Investments about \$3000. I mean, I got it for less. I hit it at. Hit it at the time that was. You know, I don't know, 10 or 15% less or whatever, they had something there, you know, everybody has a time when they're gonna have lower costs and they always talk about costs going up. I don't think anyone's going to have costs going up right now. But I looked beyond that and what I wanted to do was research on it. And I sought out some artists who had done it. Three artists, I forget one person's name and. I forget where she. Was from. I seek them out and then on their websites. When you find them, you know you have contact. So I used that contact to make an initial. Some people would. Never answer you, but I saw that painters there are a lot of photographers on there. There are actually. Galleries and I can get into that more. So what I did is the first person that went back and forth and I got on the phone, she said look at I have a 40 out, 50 hour a week job. Plus I have this. And it's a great product, but I don't have the time to devote to it. I don't have the time to devote to it. And she had only good things to say about it and she sold some prints and stuff, but I think if you're going into any venture, you have to give of yourself. All you can. And then the next person I talked to let me see if I can find her. Yeah, Diane bean. And she is a artist from Maine.

Ron Fortier

Bing or Bing?



David Dauer

Being Diane Bean, DIANE em.com and and in fact if you go to my.

Ron Fortier

Be mother.

David Dauer

My website I have a thing called artists ramblings because what I'm doing is I've started talking about that's my blog and one thing about blogs is you know it's pretty boring on a person's website to only have stories about themselves. So I started and I will continue like once every two weeks or so. To my first one is 3 artists share the main coast and it's Diane Bean, Adrian Levalley, and Joe Deveny, who's a photographer, and I just it's a short thing talking about them and linking to their websites. And you know there there's reasons behind it. I don't to get it marketing reasons behind it and I've got. 4 on my books that I'm gonna write, I'll give you the next one's going to be, and the person knows about it. If, oh, where's my piece of paper? Here it is if. If William de Cooney painted people, what would that look like? It would look like Robert Padesky, so I'm going to tie those two things together. I even have one about run for the air that's going to be down the road called calligraphy of calligraphy of a painter. Artist Ron Fortier makes his mark on canvas so. Part of doing that so anyway, so going full circle here. She was great. She's a she's a she has four kids. She does this part time because she homeschools her kids. She's a well if you go to her website you'll see what she does and there's a link through my blog. So she was straightforward, she said. It is a great I've only been on it for about a year and a half, two years, OK, in a year and a half, two years I've made, it was close to it was 15 or 20,000 bucks. And I said Ohh, all prints. She says no. That's The funny thing. She said. I thought it was going to be all about the Prince. But what happens is. I've been selling originals and prints, but the majority has been originals so it's about driving people there and you know, someone could buy a print for 1520 bucks or they can buy your original whatever price you put there, whether it's 300 or \$10,000. But it's about getting people. And they have a it is not. And then I talked to another guy. So Diane gave me her. She said it's not easy. It's hard work. Nothing's easy. Nothing's overnight. And the people will tell you when they're the sales pitch. You know you have to be ready to invest your time and energy into these things, any job to do well. So Diane said she looks at herself as a part timer because she has all this other stuff to do. And then I talked to another guy. Oh, I can't think of his name right now, but he's out of Texas, and he makes a couple \$100,000. Year full time. He's been doing it thing since they started this. Let me see if I can find him on my it just take a second but anyways he. I can't, but anyways, he's out of Texas and Mexico and he does his own prints and he does famous people. And he gets a lot of. A lot of commissions someone might want. Who's a musician who just died recently? The famous musician you you thought you posted a couple of. Things about on.

Ron Fortier

Ohh John Prine.

David Dauer

John Prine, someone commissioned you with John Prine painting large and then he sells them on T-shirts and prints and he does all these show outdoor shows where you get a booth and sells his prints and.

Speaker

Yeah, yeah.

David Dauer

He works, so he does it full time and and he says it's a lot of work. Don't let anyone fully. I'm constantly busting my ****. So I look. At it as as I'm doing it part time. The back end is fabulous. It's not easy. I have a good sense of doing that stuff because of my background. People struggle with it, but I even had a guy on two times. They were on the phone with me for over two hours each time helping me through stuff. They have live chat 24/7 7 days a



week. He might be speaking to. I spoke with this guy Marco from Romania. So anyways they have. Whole back end that tells you if you don't know nothing about marketing and they say they have a whole calendar, you do something every day. Yeah. And they tell you what it needs to be so anyways.

Ron Fortier

You have to pay that that that fee every year or is. A1 time fee.

David Dauer

That. No, that, that that's a one time fee and then after and and then after that.

Ron Fortier

Ohh, we just froze Dave. Ohh wait, wait, wait. You froze. You got it back up.

David Dauer

OK.

Ron Fortier

Let's see. Last thing you said was. About the back end, you know you don't really work hard, yeah.

David Dauer

OK. OK. You know it's it's hard work. It took me, me and I know they want you to get your stuff up and running in two weeks. I I said I'll have it running when I have X amount of paintings up and I'm satisfied I'm not going to. So it took me. I started it on a day a week prior to when I was going to because of a promotion that they came out with and but didn't work on it for a week. So I started working on it like April 4th. I was ready to go. Live on the 13th and the 19th of April. I was what I would call invested following the program.

Ron Fortier

Now is that the \$3000 fee, a subscription yearly subscription or no time fee?

David Dauer

It's a one time fee up front. You don't get it back. And then it comes to about. Well, I paid part of the promotion is if I paid for a year. Of monthlies upfront, I would get a year and. 1/2. And they had other. Ones if I bought 2 years. I'd get a third and I said, you know what? I'll go with the one and I paid it. It comes to if you pay straight, it's like 54 or \$55 a month. But if you pay up front. Per year year at 600, which cuts the cost a little bit. But The funny thing. About it is if you check most the other good websites like Squarespace and get their business product and all that stuff with where stores are set, it's going to come to about the same thing monthly. So it's getting over that mental hump of that initial payment. I ended up saying. That's investing in myself. I can write it off anyways, but what also it's tied to is they have a printer that you're tied to. So you everything can be so how it's set up if someone purchases something as a print, it goes through either. It goes through their system and you set up through. Oh, I can't think of the system. See this is. Anyways, you set up the banking side where someone puts their charge in. It goes oh stripe. So you set up a stripe account. The stripe account takes that payment, puts it in your bank, and then the payment. Then they get notified at the printer. He gets a certain cut, his costs plus shipping, and that's up front. You see, you know what the prices are, there's graphs and everything. And then.

Ron Fortier

A couple couple of more questions real quick number. You don't do anything as far as the printing end of this thing is concerned, right? The images are already on file, so they print it, pack it, ship it for you and and you get paid. You get a check or the.



David Dauer

Yeah, well, you get the check right away. Your money goes in your bank within 24 hours or 30 hours. Well, you know, depending on when it is. Right. I actually bought a piece for myself, not for myself. For one of my pieces to see the quality. And they and they push giveaways. So what I'm doing right now is I'm giving away a real painting. Now. If someone bought a real painting for me from me, they would. Let's say they'd go in, they'd buy it, it would go through the whole stripe thing, except I'd be notified. And I have to pack it and ship it to them because I own it. And I have it. Right. And then and the art storefronts? Don't. I'm going to say 3%. It might be less.

Ron Fortier

I was going to ask you about that Commission. That was my second question.

David Dauer

Yeah, they they have a small Commission, but actually what it does is it. Sets everything up. Taxes. You know, I'm from Massachusetts, so if anyone from Massachusetts, they have to pay taxes. It's all set. Billables. You get statement at the end of the year. It's very organized. They have a Facebook page that's private. So you can run things back and forth to people. They have videos. They have online video chats with the owners and marketing two or three times a week, so there's one today at 2:00 that I'll put on while I'm painting.

Ron Fortier

I'd like to do a show why I call a series, in other words, it'll be several shows. I don't know how many on the same topic, so if you think that that's of any value. You know, for yourself or some of the other people you've made contact with, or even some of your contacts at our storefront. So push product. You know, we're also looking for sponsorships. I'll be. I'll be upfront about that. But we're we've got about another 9 minutes or so. So I want to go back to SMU.

David Dauer

And we'll say it don't check me in a year how that our fronts are working, yeah.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, no. Exactly, exactly. So I'm going to go back to to SMU, and I want to, I want you to do a little bit of reminiscing about each one. You know, tannery, Elliott Cummings and McCoy. I have one question for you about.

David Dauer

You know.

Ron Fortier

Cummings, I I for some reason between him and and and. Toneri those those are the ones. That that. I don't know the deepest impressions, the deepest friendships, respect all the other stuff, but it was one thing about Herb Cummings. He would always say one man's broccoli is another man's asparagus. Do you remember that or is that? Something you can hold on.

David Dauer

I I I remember. I remember things like that, but my big line from him is and we all kid about it. Today is Dave. Or, you know, take what I say with a grain of salt. Whatever lands on you keep whatever doesn't, doesn't. And and and for and I I got A's from him. But at the same time I was taking him for senior painting. I was taking a talk diary for independent study and painting. And and one of our friends would always say, hey, our our Fred, Ed Condon would come up. Tell me, Dave. He keeps on asking me why you don't pay attention to him. This is her and he and while he's telling me, take me with a grain of salt and I just kinda Ed Togneri was like. Mine he was, you know, as close as I would say anyone could be as a teacher. I still have letters of recommendation that I used from him that he hand wrote. You know, I'd gone to his house once or. Twice. And you know he was. He was just amazing



because he his compassion. And his understanding? To me and his knowledge, uh was it just connected, I think. I think Bill Elliott. May be next because he told you the truth.

Ron Fortier

Ohh yeah, it was for me. It was like a rubber band effect. I didn't feel the snap until years later and Frank McCoy for me was like the 4th one where I remember I could never figure him out because his mantra was flat. Big flat shapes, big flat shapes. I could send the guys from Kansas. What the hell else does he know? And I remember in the middle of a. Of a of a drawing class. I got so frustrated with him. I just shouted out big flat shapes and they all stared at me and went. Oh my God. You know, I wanted to pick up the phone right away and say I want to let you know that like, 30 something years later, if I'm, you know, I'm slow on some of. Those things, you know, I mean there there are.

David Dauer

They were all close. Yeah, they were all. And I mean.

Ron Fortier

Close they were. They were friends.

David Dauer

They even came to our parties. You know, our class parties and stuff. Well, that doesn't happen too often. Maybe today. I don't know. So.

Ron Fortier

No, it's a very standoffish. Let me go. Let me, let me let very, very quickly about about them. I would love to be able to do a show. I know you're still in communication with Ed Toneri's daughter.

David Dauer

I haven't. I lost the e-mail, unfortunately, and she she you know, when I first had a few shows, she saw something. And I for the life of me haven't been able to find it and she hasn't.

Ron Fortier

OK. I've been in communication with Alma Cummings. I've been trying to get her on on because she herself is a painting. A painter. But I'd love to be able to have a show with her, you know, and. Someone else other than me like yourself to to to reminisce about her dad. It's very difficult for me to speak about him. It's kind of weird. I get more teary talking about him than I do about my father.

David Dauer

Well, that's another story for another day.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. And so it would be great. And also the idea of if we could, I obviously want to do a show on each one of the. Members that we have in tech and we've already done Bob Brodetsky you know, so that would be another good. Thing to do. And again, it's all about not just reminiscing, it's about putting this down into a historical context because we were we were quite fortunate. I mean, four years of college for \$2400 complete.

Speaker

That's it.

David Dauer

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I took extra credit so. You know, I took like 2 extra classes I. Every from sophomore year on



I took independent studies.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, I did. With Tonya, yeah.

David Dauer

Yeah. So you know, it's like, you know what's what's that 5 credits worth today that I paid nothing for cause it was, I could pay, you know, take up to X amount. And I took it all. It wasn't any more work really. But it was another voice.

Ron Fortier

In retrospect, you know, going back, looking at at at this. What do you? Would you would there? Would there be anything that you would do over? Is there anything that you'd love to be able to go back to and embrace or you know that? That kind of thing.

David Dauer

You know, I, you know, you don't get second times. I just what I embrace because. I see it. In my wife and. I had a parent. I had parents who? I had parents who pushed me to do 120%. Whatever I did and they didn't care that I was into the arts, they said, hey, as long as you're happy, do what you want. It all work itself out. You do, and I am thankful to that because there are a lot of artists, people who became artists later on that parents you gotta. You know, get a you have to make a living and this and that. And in my own way I did. But I made a living in the arts. Being a designer is still an art. Artist I still. Whether it was making spreads, working with photographers and illustrators and putting together, you know, 300 page magazines. I worked on an art publication. You know, I to this day, when I do design work, it's still art. My mind works. In a similar similar but dissimilar way, I think what it comes out of all of it is I look at the negative space as important as the positive space and and that's you know everything is important. So I'm thankful for my parents who? Allowed me to grow in.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, they were wonderful people. I still remember them quite fondly. I mean, you you. I can't look at chicken without thinking of you.

David Dauer

My way. Yeah, because you put pepper on instead of paprika, red pepper.

Ron Fortier

Well, that was, yeah. No, it was Kayan cause it was, it was red and it was. It was in a rush. But no, seriously, the the, the, her whole concept of how she kept things going, it was it was always good. Alright. We gonna wind it down one final question.

David Dauer

Kind of you are hearing.

Ron Fortier

What would you like to be known for when you know when you're no longer walking on the earth? What would you like to have? Been remembered for.

David Dauer

A person who pushed his artistic envelope always, even if it's slightly but did things that. Weren't expected with normal things, and to be known as a person who was giving and caring.



Ron Fortier

So a risk taker on one side. Right. And I think are on another side.

David Dauer

Yeah, I guess so, I guess so. I mean, I might paint flowers, but not too many people paying like me. When you say flowers, you know, or, you know, I look at those my paintings as conversations of life. And I'm just using the flowers as a vehicle.

Ron Fortier

Yeah, yeah, David. Thank you so much. This has been this has been fantastic.

David Dauer

Yeah, great fun.

Ron Fortier

And I really appreciate your time and I'll we'll give you a heads up on to you know when when this podcast will drop at this point. Now we're probably six weeks out now because we we maintain an archive to keep the flow going and. This is Skype. If you haven't, I guess that already the the quality is not. Always Pyrex salons, but once again this is Ron Fortier with the In Focus podcast, brought to you by the South Coast Artist Index. We had our guest David Dauer, painter, designer, Renaissance man. You ruined my closing. Alright with that. We we bid you a fond farewell.