



wasn't as concerned with the minutia and exactness of his art as he himself came to be, he was adamant about the accuracy of his creations.

"He told me, 'if I'm going to carve an Indian, it had better look like an Indian,'" – a tenet the artist obviously still regards as canon. Every piece he creates begins as a light sketch so he can ensure his elements are true to the traditions he honors, long before mixing his paints.

Wainwright says he shares his motivations as an artist with the men and women that have helped keep the Mardi Gras spirit alive over the centuries. "Those individuals had two purposes," he said. "To create a colorful event with lots of flair, and to serve the community."

His limited-edition prints accomplish both, with plenty of flair to spare, sized and priced so that anyone found cheering for Moon Pies and beads can take a few home. Kathy Hines, who sells Wainwright's prints at Hillcrest Framing & Gallery, says the accessibility of his work is a tremendous benefit to customers.

"People love that his prints are very affordable and part of a series

they can collect each and every one of," Hines said. "And his colors are so rich and vibrant, our customers just love them." Even framed and matted, Wainwright's prints can be purchased for less than \$130. Hines says she's sold as many as 30 prints at one time to a single patron.

Wayne Dean, who has portrayed Chief Slac for more than 20 years, particularly appreciates the size of Wainwright's art, as well as its subject matter.

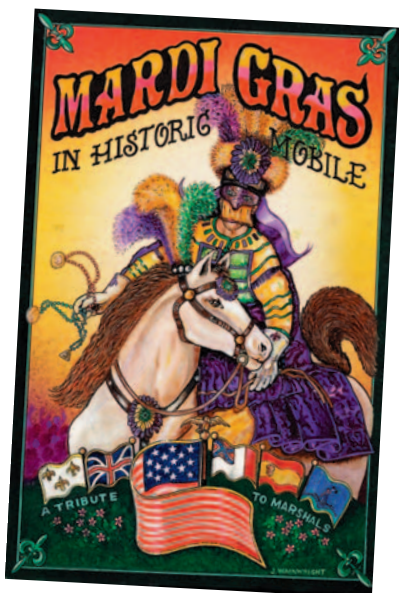
"Most Mardi Gras art is of a size that you can only hang one on any given wall in your house or office," Dean said. "But Jim's prints are of a size that not only encourages people to collect the entire series, but to display them together – with all of those wonderful Mardi Gras icons in one place."

It's no stretch to say that Mardi Gras wouldn't exist if it weren't for creative individuals like Joe Cain, Edmond de Celle, Julian Rayford and Jim Wainwright. They serve not only as catalysts for Mobile's annual elation, but also as guardians of its finest celebratory traditions.

Having learned at the feet of creative and socially conscious individuals, and being born of them, Wainwright's imagination and reverence renew Mobile's Carnival spirit each time he puts brush to paint. Never does a moment go by when he's not thinking about the people that Mardi Gras exists for, or the imagery that inspires them.

"I want to include everybody in Mobile's Mardi Gras," he said. "Let's tell the story so it benefits us all."

Jim Wainwright's limited-edition prints can be purchased by calling 895-0212, or visiting www.mardigrasprints.com.




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