



## TOAST OF HIS OWN TOWN

### PAINTING THE SOUTHERN COAST: THE ART OF WEST FRASER

Gibbes Museum of Art  
135 Meeting Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  
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gibbesmuseum.org  
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WEST FRASER (b. 1955), *Easy Lady*, 2013, oil on linen,  
30 x 36 in., collection of John H. Breedlove

A key theme in American art history is the powerful connection that artists often form with the places they live. Although he paints around the world — from the Caribbean and Central America to Scandinavia and Italy — West Fraser has focused his talent and energy on a fascinating region often overlooked by the national “art world.” It encompasses the lushly beautiful coasts, marshes, and settlements between Georgetown, South Carolina, and St. Augustine, Florida, including the so-called Sea Islands (more than 100 tidal and barrier islands). Fraser’s atmospheric scenes

vibrate with just the right blend of the beautiful and the ordinary — and with the ongoing push-pull between history and modernity. This is home ground: born in Savannah and raised in Hinesville and Hilton Head Island, Fraser earned a B.F.A. from the University of Georgia.

On view at the leading museum of the city Fraser has called home since 1984 are approximately 25 paintings, borrowed from collections nationwide. Among them are several studies that offer fascinating insights into his working process.