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LIFE EATS LIFE: the undersea paintings of Eduardo del Rio

By Carl Thoren, San Francisco

Kessler San Francisco employees are a wildly talented bunch. We write, sing, play instruments, cook, dance, paint, and express ourselves through a wide variety of hobbies.

This May, Web Designer Eduardo del Rio got a chance to show off his artistic talents in the newly dubbed Kessler SF “North Beach Gallery” overlooking San Francisco Bay. The space was a perfect setting for Eduardo’s current series of oil paintings, “Aquatic Angst.”

According to Eduardo, the paintings portray the eat-and-be-eaten world of life underwater—a world that is both beautiful and brutal. “I wanted to investigate the angst of make-believe sea creatures,” he says. Tentacles grasp for unsuspecting prey. Large mouths open for the kill. Eduardo redeems this danger-



ous world with bright colors and a mischievous sense of humor. In one painting, a toothy shark is about to bite a fish—a spiky blowfish, who smiles, knowing the shark is about to get an unpleasant surprise.

Eduardo hopes people will compare the undersea world with life on dry land. “The little fish is eaten by the big fish, who is eaten by the bigger fish, who is eaten by the biggest fish,” he says. “Which fish do you see yourself as? The big fish? The little fish? Are you a hermit crab? Remora? Plankton? Killer whale? Sea anemone? Albacore? Whatever you are, good luck trying not to get eaten!”

A prolific painter, Eduardo says his artistic parents — his mom is a painter and his father is a photographer — put a pencil in his hand as soon as he was born. After studying Spanish literature at the University of San Francisco, he focused on illustration and art in his hometown of Salamanca, Spain. He came to Kessler after working for The Body Shop, Gap, and Sony. Eduardo continues to show his work in cafés, lounges, and small galleries around the Bay Area.

To see more of Eduardo Del Rio’s work, visit his web site at www.pencilprone.com.



EMPLOYEE POLL

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