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restaurants offer variety of delicious hot
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LIFE &
ARTS
L.A.



Krish Krishnan



JOURNEYS IN PEN & PAINT

Wilmette artist
releases first
book, 'Ramble
Into Sacred
Realms,'
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I & A COVER STORY

Global inspirations

Wilmette artist
releases first book

ERIC DEGRECHIE, Editor

Krish V. Krishnan is the definition of a world traveler. The Wilmette artist has visited more than 60 countries and called at least dozens of them home at one time or another in his life.

A successful businessman, Krishnan has always made a point to carry art supplies in his suitcases during these voyages to document some of what he sees. Whether using watercolor, scratchboard, acrylics, pencil or pastel, he expresses himself through his art and then chronicles the experiences by composing journalistic essays on each piece.

Earlier this month, Krishnan's first book, "Rambles Into Sacred Realms: Journeys in Pen and Paint," was released. A labor of love more than 30 years in the making, the 238-page book is available from Shanti Arts Publishing for \$48.

Growing up in India, Krishnan learned about art from his father, who still paints today at the age of 84. The son finished his first oil painting at the age of nine.

After graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, Krishnan embarked on a corporate career which afforded him the chance to continue his artistic pursuits as his work often requires extensive travel.

Krishnan has also published more than 500 articles on travel, humor and culture in various newspapers and publications all over the world, including the Chicago Tribune, Time maga-



"Camel Catastrophe: Resting from the ride," was drawn in Egypt on scratchboard.



"Knight with a Sword: Akko," is a watercolor of a scene Krishnan saw in Is.

zine, The Nation and Times of India.

Three years ago, his wife gave him the idea to put all of his experiences and work together in book form.

"I have lived in these cultures, imbibed their legends and languages, and engaged the services of expert local guides to help me better comprehend and appreciate the local perspectives on what makes these places and their experiences so special," said Krishnan of the 12 places chosen for the book.

His art tends to focus

on landscapes and ancient monuments, though Krishnan also enjoys using wildlife and moving scenery as subjects. He does not draw portraits of humans.

"I like the raw power of nature. For example, drawing in Hawaii, a volcano emerging out of the crater in full force with anger and rage," Krishnan said. "The locals actually deify the volcano as a goddess. There has to be some sort of legend about something that gets me all started."

With so many exotic plac-



Wilmette artist Krish V. Krishnan recently released his first book, "Rambles Into Sacred Realms: Journeys in Pen & Paint." Pictured from the book is "The Obelisk Tomb and the Bab as-Siq Triclinium," drawn with Conte crayon. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

es to choose from, Krishnan is often asked which is his favorite muse and he always has a quick reply.

"Israel — Jerusalem is the greatest city in the world," Krishnan said. "It's like a palate of civilizations and time. It's like walking through the portals of time and drawing in a different world with the odd mixture of the Arabs, Christians, Orthodox Greeks and the Jewish community. There are so many faiths intermingled."

As each work of art has a story, some of Krishnan's experiences sound like an adventure movie. While sketching a temple in Thailand, he was suddenly surrounded by a pack of feral dogs. In an underground cave in Belize where Maya called to their gods through human sacrifices, the non-swimmer found himself wading in chin-deep waters. Danger was also abound while drawing a shrine in Cambodia as a venomous cobra slithered across his feet.

The length of time spent on a particular work varies depending on the medium used, the size of the piece and the subject.

"The quickest ones have been scratchboard or watercolors with some having been completed in a few hours," Krishnan said. "Some of my acrylic landscapes on the other hand have taken me several weeks to complete."

BOOK SIGNING

April 19 (2:30-5 p.m.)
Lakeview Center - Gillson
Park, Wilmette
Artwork will be on display

Krishnan, who moved to Wilmette in 1998, is a member of the Wilmette Art Guild. To learn more about Krishnan and the book, visit www.kvkrishnan.com.



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