



The 40 Acres Art Gallery Presents —

CHRIS DUKE: *Reflections of California*

Chris Duke's vibrant paintings of Sacramento and the Bay Area result directly from his love for the northern California landscape and the natural environs that surround him. Multi-talented as a musician as well as a visual artist, Duke's creative expression is rooted in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, where blues, soul, and the gospel music of his father's ministry greatly influenced his upbringing. His early career naturally focused on music, since his multiple talents (he is adept at the guitar, bass, harmonica, accordion, piano and saxophone, and is a songwriter as well as a singer) afforded him many opportunities to perform at local and regional clubs. He yearned for more, however. A friend introduced him to painting, which led to an emotional re-awakening. Extensive cross-country travel eventually brought Duke to California, where his love for nature drew him to San Francisco, then Sacramento.

His greatest satisfaction lies in discovering those secluded, out of the way places that encourage solitude and self-reflection. Similar in style to the Impressionists, Duke's focus is less on realism and more on capturing the fleeting effects of light and shadow. His paintings are attempts to capture those moments so that others might better understand and appreciate the beauty of nature.

The 40 Acres Art Gallery and Cultural Center is a non-profit arts organization that seeks to present visual art, music, literature, film and theater for Sacramento's inner-city community of Oak Park. 40 Acres aims to turn prominent historic Oak Park structures into a commercially viable destination place where people can experience the arts, shop, dine, and live in a stimulating cultural environment.

Additional landscapes by Chris Duke are on display until December 15, 2002 at St. HOPE's Corporate offices, 3400 3rd Avenue, Sacramento. For more information, contact Kim Curry-Evans, Director of Visual Arts, at (916) 489-HOPE, ext. 4696, or kcurry@sthope.com.

The artist is represented by the Alexis Genung Studios, Sacramento.



The artist at work in his studio

