



## Around Town

### DeCunto Featured in Renjeau Gallery Showing

Renjeau Galleries opened the month of June with a celebration of the arts for Newbury Street's First Thursday Night. From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on June 7, post pop expressionist John DeCunto created a performance painting in the windows of Renjeau Galleries, located at 201 Newbury Street, as dancers and musicians performed live.

After the painting was sold, a portion of the proceeds benefited the Artists Foundation, an organization that supports diverse constituents from the art community. Such groups include authors, choreographers, composers, craft-people, filmmakers, painters, photographers, poets and sculptors, for example.

John P. DeCunto was born in Lawrence, MA. When he was only twelve years old, he had his first gallery show. After graduating from high school, he received two scholarships, one to study commercial art at the Vesper George School of Art, and another to study fine arts at the Art Institute of Boston. In the mid 1970's, he undertook a three-year apprenticeship with Napoleon Setti, known for his stained glass windows at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

In 1983 DeCunto received a scholarship from Boston University to study painting and art history. His study there culminated in the receipt of the Boston University International Scholarship, an award for Renaissance study in Padua, Italy for one academic year. In 1989 his painting "Memories of Italy" was presented to the mayor of Padua in a cultural exchange program.

In 1983 M.I.T. commissioned him to paint the now well-recognized portrait of Dr. Harold Edgerton. In addition,



**John DeCunto**

DeCunto's work has been acquired by museums such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University and Boston's Museum of Science. He has also exhibited at Boston Symphony Hall and Governor Michael Dukakis' Inaugural Ball. In 1989 he submitted his painting "Illiteracy" to the curator of the White House as a tribute to Barbara Bush's campaign against illiteracy.

DeCunto is known for his commitment to achieving social awareness through art. In addition, the artist has worked on stage with a diversity of American bands to create a spontaneous performance that involved the crowd in an experience uniting the visual arts and sound. Founder of the post pop expressionist movement, his style fuses the classical, cubist, futurist, expressionist and pop traditions.

Additional works by DeCunto and other Renjeau Gallery artists are now on exhibit. For more information call 536-2787.