

Welcome summer! I think all of us are ready for summer sun and all the fun that comes with it!

With Memorial Day weekend here, I wanted to share with you some very good news about a project I started last fall to raise funds for wounded US soldiers. To date, my prints of [At Ease](#), above, have raised over \$700 for Operation Mend, a project that is helping military men and women who have been devastatingly disfigured in the wars overseas.

Beyond the funds, a response I didn't foresee, are the many words of thanks from soldiers, foreign service workers and relatives of men and women serving our country, for recognizing their efforts and wounds other than physical. I've been told the painting and what I [wrote](#) about it are bringing healing. Their words make my heart sing and make me believe that sticking with what I'm doing, no matter how hard in this economy, is the right thing. The next time you see someone in uniform, take a moment to say "Thanks." We never know how much such a little word can mean.

This weekend, I'm introducing a mini-giclee print of *At Ease* priced at just \$45 to keep the funds flowing. \$25 of each print sale, regardless of size, goes directly to *Operation Mend*. Read more and donate directly at operationmend.ucla.edu.

**I can't start the summer
without a new print celebrating
the season.**

Of several paintings I've been working on this spring, the first to debut in print is a serene 14" x 11" oil painting of

dunes and water somewhere along our coast on a sunny summer day. It's called *Shadows and Sand* and is available in print now as an archival giclee (and just a few proofs) at the gallery and very soon on my website.

As the economy picks up, I'm slowly bringing in more artists and their beautiful creations. Among new artists to The Ellen Rice Gallery is Austin Cake, a fellow "mermaid" of the Eastern Shore, who creates really lovely sea glass jewelry.



[Shadows and Sand](#), oil on canvas & new archival giclees

We have a new potter, whose work will debut just before July 4th, as well as another couple of jewelry artists, and our jellyfish lamp artist has created a new, less expensive, upside down jellyfish wall lamp!

I'm also working with the same group of artists who make my [nightlights, dry erase boards and bookmarks](#) to create a line of framed magnets featuring my paintings, an elegant way to decorate your fridge (or dorm room) with scenes that remind you of relaxing days at the shore.

Last, I've made a few more of my paintings into archival, signed mini-giclees. Their size and price are working for a lot of people and since they fit in 8" x 10" frames, they're inexpensive to frame.

If you have a specific request for a giclee mini, check with the gallery at our toll-free number, 1-888-355-7423 (1-888-ELL-RICE). If we don't have it, I am taking special requests. None of the minis are on the website yet, but hopefully will be soon.

Recently I started videotaping a painting's progress. The painting is a 40" x 16" oil of the marshlands and beach of the James Farm Ecological Preserve adjacent to my home. Check back with my [website](#) in the next couple of weeks (or stop in the gallery) if you'd like to follow its progress. I'll send an email heads up when it's online.

I hope if you're in the area this weekend you'll stop by, say Hi and check out my other new paintings. They're so new I don't have images yet, but they too will be up on the website soon. They're in the gallery now for those of you who are looking for new originals.

I'll be in the gallery between 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, to talk with you and sign prints for you and your loved ones. It's always good to see familiar faces!

In closing, thank you, each and every one of you who have shopped with us over the winter either in the gallery or online. You helped us more than you know.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen".

Ellen