The Heart of MEADOWMONT & THE OAKS

Connecting Our Community

AN EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MEADOWMONT, THE OAKS AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, EDUARDO LAPETINA

From art collector to art creator

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Photos by Hidden Moments
Photography by Suzanne Goodall

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MEET EDUARDO LAPETINA

From art collector to art creator

Katie Kim, Content Coordinator
Hidden Moments Photography by Suzanne Goodall

A CAREER IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE

For 85-year-old Eduaro Lapentina, most of his life has been defined by science and art. Eduardo was born in Argentina in 1940 to Italian parents, and some of his earliest memories are of his parents working hard to provide for their children. He studied medicine at the University of Buenos Aires and worked in the university's school of medicine until 1975, when he moved to the U.S. to focus on his career and raise his family.

During his time as a scientist at the University of Buenos Aires, Eduardo worked in the neuroscience field. This narrowed to a specialty in cardiovascular science with an emphasis on thrombosis and atherosclerosis.

Titled "FOUND DEEP DOWN IN OUR OCEANS," this painting was selected for the NC Artists Exhibition of the Raleigh Fine Arts Society.

"During those thirty-five years of my scientific work in the USA as Principal Scientist at Burroughs Wellcome and UNC Adjunct Professor of Medicine, over 50 postdoctoral fellows from around the world came to work in my labs," Eduardo said. "We published hundreds of scientific journal articles and made strides in the field that led to international renown."

ART MAKES A WAY

Art found its way into his life by way of travel—being a scientist allowed him to visit and work in many places. The international trips gave Eduardo the opportunity to find and collect art from around the world. A diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis would eventually cause him to leave his field of work, but it opened a new door for Eduardo: he seized the opportunity to move from art collector to art creator.

"Over the years of appreciating art, I had refined a sense of what I most appreciated and reacted to in the art which I loved," he said. "Over the next 25 years, I honed my ability to express my own passions in my abstract acrylic paintings. This is the journey that has enabled me to find meaning and

"FINDING PARADISE"

purpose in creating beauty and expressing what is in my soul in my painting."

Eduardo's specialty is abstract painting on canvas, and his paintings have found their way into many galleries in states across the US and even into Europe. He shared two of his present favorite pieces, "FINDING PARADISE" and "MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS, MY REFUGE." Over the years, many pieces have been his favorite at different times. He currently has 42 recent paintings in an exhibition through August 30th at Higgins and Myers Custom Framing and Fine Art Gallery at Ram's Plaza in Chapel Hill. His paintings are priced based on their size.

Eduardo sold his Chapel Hill home and moved to the Cedars about a year ago, and much of his time has been spent adapting his new place to be equipped to support his disability (multiple sclerosis and myasthenia gravis). One of his bedrooms is now a prized painting studio, a special place he spends many hours a week working on new pieces.

"MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS, MY REFUGE"

INSPIRED BY FAMILY

Eduardo's hard-working nature was inherited by his three adult children, Gerardo, Graciana, and Maria. Gerardo, 53, is a corporate insurance lawyer. He was born in England when Eduardo was a postdoctoral fellow for a few years. Gerardo and his wife live in Washington, D.C. Graciana, 51, was born

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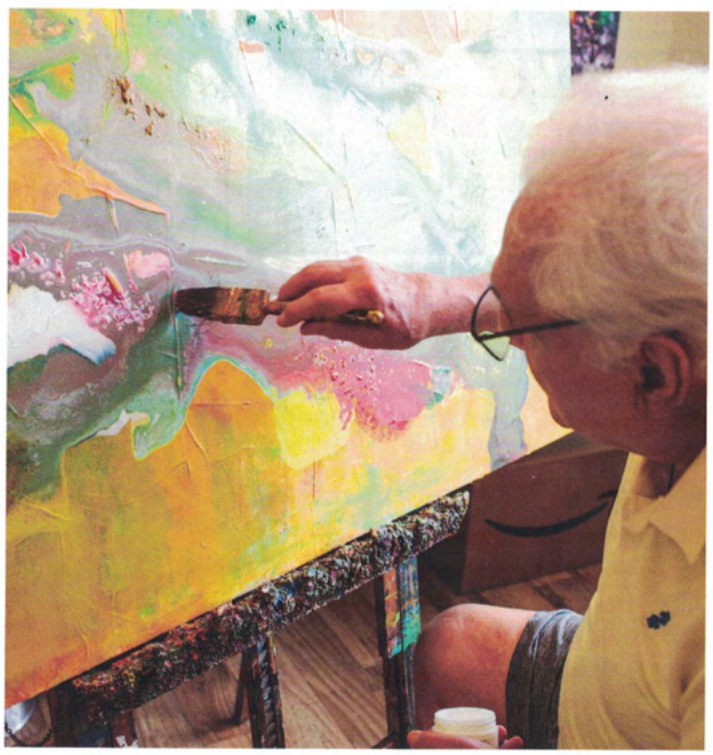

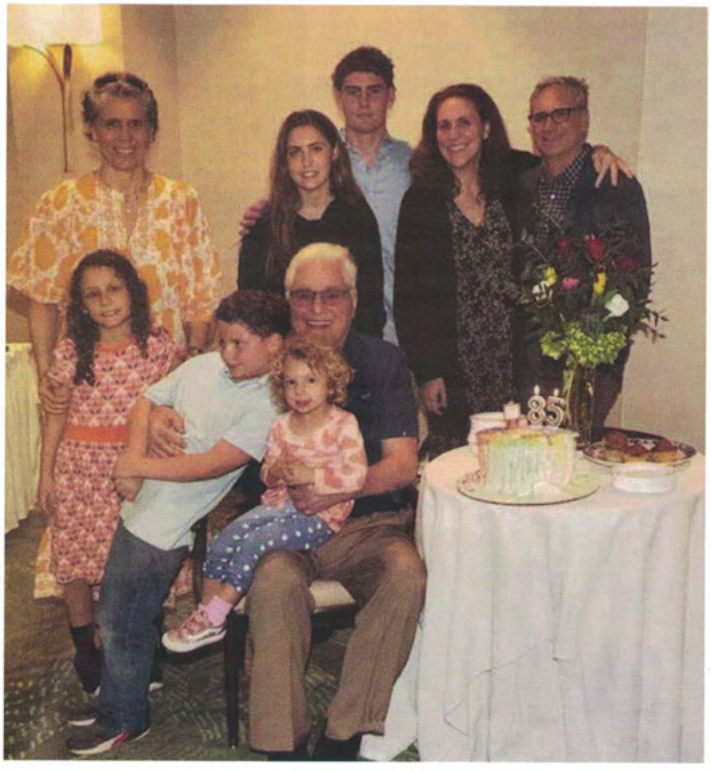

Eduardo and family at his 85th birthday party.

in Argentina during Eduardo's tenure at the Buenos Aires School of Medicine. She was a passionate tennis player in high school and attended Princeton and NYU Medical School. Today, she and her spouse are both psychiatrists. Maria, 43, was born in North Carolina after Eduardo's family relocated to the US. Eduardo was a principal scientist at Burroughs Wellcome Co. at the time. Maria is an anti-corruption and securities enforcement lawyer, also married to a lawyer!

Eduardo turned 85 on April 7 of this year, and his family gathered to celebrate. All of his children and his five grandchildren got to attend! The eldest are 19-year-old twins, Cecilia and Charlie. Cecilia is a Pogue Scholar at UNC Chapel Hill, while Charlie attends UC Santa Barbara. They both return to D.C. to stay with their parents over the summer, and this year, they are enjoying internships. Liliana is 9 and lives in New York, and she enjoys writing stories, playing piano, and basketball. Her dream is to become a basketball coach! Little Alex, 6, and Maddie, 3, both love reading books

Growing up, Eduardo put an emphasis on academic activities for his children. He didn't know much about sports, but he was able to teach them much about academic subjects, fostering their hard-working nature.

Eduardo's work allowed him to travel to Europe, Israel, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, Canada, and many countries in Latin America.

"I [traveled for work] for 35 years," Eduardo said. "Now my traveling is only related to vacations with my family. We mostly go to the beaches in NC, Mexico, and the Caribbean. We also visit family in Argentina."

Eduardo enjoys living in the Cedars and the lively atmosphere it provides. His message to others is to have peace and good health and to always practice optimism and gratitude. He would like to connect to other artists in the area if they are interested!

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact Content Coordinator, Katie Clark at KatherineClark@BestVersionMedia.com

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