

Different poster accomplishes its task

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It's different.

That's what admirers and critics say about the 27th annual Neptune Festival limited edition poster, now on sale.

And that's what the board of directors looked for, said Nancy Creech, Neptune Festival

president. They were trying to do something different from the previous year.

"It doesn't always have to be graphic art. It can be fine," she said.

The festival commissioned Hampton Roads artist Louis Jones because he is a good representation of a fine artist, she said.

Jones hails from three generations of internationally renowned Hampton Roads artists, including his father, Herb Jones. His wife, Susan, and son, Ryan, are also accomplished artists. Collectively, the Jones family has sold more than 200,000 paintings and prints.

There are 2,000 signed and numbered copies of the 2000 Neptune Festival commemorative painting. Louis Jones has the original, and he plans to keep it. It has sentimental value, he said.

It took two months to complete the piece. Using egg tempera to get brighter hues, Jones created a composition of a surfer in a wet suit and a

girl in a bikini looking off into a bright yellow and orange sunrise.

"It is a very hopeful and positive image which highlights all the great things the beach has to offer including peace, serenity and the dawn of a new day," he said.

The male figure is his son, and the girl is Paige Bias, 20, who works at the Jones Art Gallery in Lynnhaven Mall.

Jones, a helper and his models headed to the beach before dawn in early January. Isabel Hendrix, Ryan's girlfriend, took pictures, and Jones made a few sketches. Ryan and Paige posed for an hour as the sun rose over Rudee Inlet.

"Poor Paige was freezing to death," said Jones.

The 22-by-28-inch poster, suitable for framing, can be purchased at the Neptune Festival office, 265 King's Grant Road. The cost is \$20.

To give your opinion of the poster, visit www.neptunefestival.com



Neptune Festival 2000

LOUIS JONES' 27th annual Neptune Festival commemorative poster goes for \$20 at the festival's headquarters.