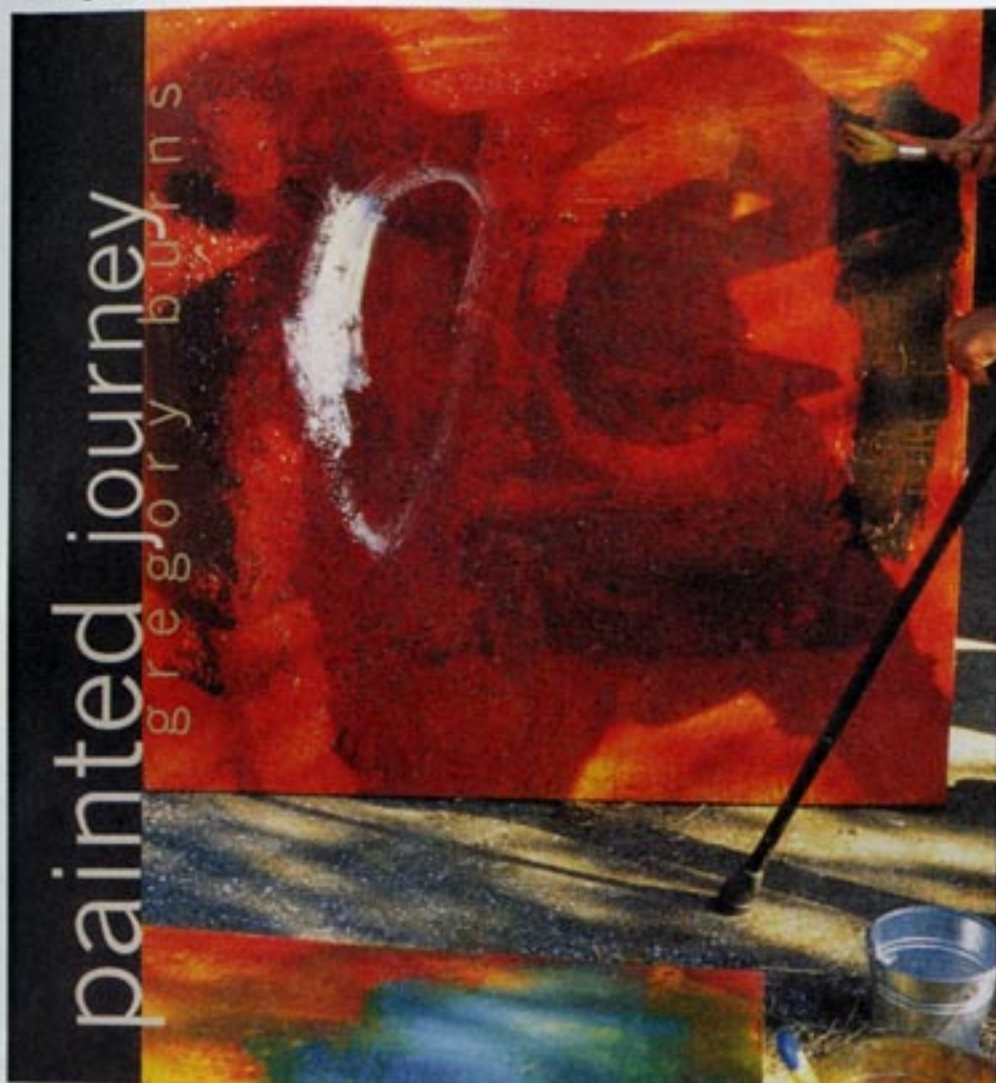


PAINTED JOURNEY

★★★★☆

Gregory Burns / Gregory Burns



This is not a book about art, or disability, or travel, or hope. It is, in fact, a book that combines all of the above—and yet ultimately, it's a book about a single man.

Gregory Burns has done more in his lifetime so far than most “abled” people. Contracting polio as an infant meant that Burns has spent most of his life on crutches. Yet he holds five Paralympic Games medals and four world records. Today, the 47-year-old author is an established artist

in the abstract style, based in Singapore.

A few dozen pages into the book, you get a sense that nothing is taken for granted in Burns' world. Whether painting, trekking, making friends, or simply musing on the whimsy of others, Burns approaches the world with humor and optimism. What you won't find, though, is a traditional narrative in this hardcover journal. Pictures and thoughts are scattered liberally throughout the pages, making for brilliant, jewel-toned eye candy, but offering little in the way of literature. Burns' scrapbook text includes vignettes such as “Racing to catch our train to Venice almost does us in as our luggage weighs far more than we do.”

Get this book to be inspired and entertained, but don't expect any heart-wringing insights. Burns celebrates his abilities, not his disabilities—and he expects the same from his readers. A great read to start 2005 on an optimistic note.—June Lee