



**RON ORLANDO**

Resides: Basking Ridge,  
New Jersey  
b. 1947, New York, USA

*Balancing Act*  
Purple gallinule  
Acrylic, 8.5 x 12

*While visiting relatives on a recent visit to Florida, I was able to slip away for some bird watching at a local preserve. This purple gallinule was putting on quite a show among the water plants; balancing on one thin stem after another in its quest to feed on the small pur-*

*ple flowers. Being from New Jersey, where wildlife is more skittish, it always amazes me how close you can get to wildlife in these Florida preserves. I so enjoyed watching this purple gallinule that it was destined to be a painting.*