

SHOUT  
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If we lose them, we lose them forever.

**Every last artist on the Cape should do this:** take a pilgrimage to one of the most sacred stretches of dune on Cape Cod — the Provincelands of Provincetown, as spare as a Moroccan desert.

Pass by wind-battered shack after wind-battered shack, imagining what it would be like to go to sleep at night and wake in the morning to such distilled isolation. The purity and relief of it. Imagine the art history alive in those simple rooms, and imagine them gone. And imagine how you would capture their magic so others would know.

One Sunday, years ago, painter David Forest Thompson visited a friend who was staying at a Provincetown dune shack. "That Sunday visit was to change everything. I decided to comb the length of the beach and paint all these shacks... I painted these precious gems one at a time. I stayed in several over the years, learning the way of life, respecting the way of life. In this ever-



**CAUGHT IN TIME:** The Armstrong dune shack, by David Forest Thompson.

changing landscape what we see one day might not be there the next."

Maybe artists can save what the "Grand-Scheme-of-Things" always wants to sweep away.

See Thompson's portraits of the dune shacks at the Cape Museum of Fine Arts Rt. 6A in Dennis. **Opening July 5 and continuing through August 10. 385-4477.**