

Brendan O'Connell brings Wal-Mart to Southie



artist Brendan O'Connell (in front of a painting purchased by Alec Baldwin)

What is it about [Wal-Mart](#)? Of all of artist [Brendan O'Connell](#)'s work, it's his renderings of shoppers at the superstore that have generated the most interest. "I was struck by the notion of capturing everyday American life," says O'Connell, "Wal-Mart has replaced the church as the place where people congregate." An exhibit of his Wal-Mart paintings opens tonight at [Lamontagne Gallery](#) in South Boston, and O'Connell, whose wife is the noted Beverly Farms-bred landscape painter [Emily Buchanan](#), will be there. We'd heard the Wal-Mart paintings have some well-known fans, including "30 Rock" actor [Alec Baldwin](#) and [Darrell Crate](#), the multimillionaire former chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party. "Alec's become quite a collector of American paintings," said O'Connell. "He saw my work in New York and bought a couple." The show runs through Oct. 9.