

LOCAL ART



Finished Decima

People Watcher

Written by Kimberly Horg

Local artist Dan Cordova captures the moment on canvas

People reveal their emotions to the outside world through facial expressions and body language. Local artist Dan Cordova likes to study these expressions on the people he paints so that he can better capture their personalities on canvas. The figures in his

paintings come alive with clever contrasts of light and shadow that highlight his subjects' emotions and reveal a little of who each person is on the inside.

The Roseville resident has been drawing since he was a child and says that ever since he can remember, he's

always enjoyed drawing people (and characters) he likes. Mickey Mouse and Ziggy were some of his first portraits. As he got older, he moved on and began drawing and painting real people, each with their own uniqueness.

"I paint people because I like look-



Amy-Digital



Esmoralda

ing at their expressions," says Dan. "I paint their expression or something else I see that I like and express it in a visual way." He is a people person and likes to do his homework before diving into his work. He thinks that he finds the people closest to him the most interesting subjects to paint because he knows what makes them tick.

One morning, Dan found inspiration right under his nose (or in this case, right above it). "I woke up one morning and my hair was ridiculous, so I decided to paint a self-portrait," he laughs. Appropriately, he titled his work *Bad Hair Day*.

The fact that he says he couldn't do a thing with his hair but paint it reveals how Dan brings humor and emotion to his art while making his subjects' personalities come alive. Another telling example is his work titled *Decima*, a portrait of a close friend whom he chose to paint because of her mysterious personality. "I can't describe her in a couple sentences; she is a mysterious person who is guarded and quiet," he says. "She affects people without trying to. Most of the guys who know her become obsessed with her, but surprisingly we have just remained friends."

Dan prefers to paint single-image portraits because he feels that with more figures, his paintings lose their visual impact. He has also done still lifes and landscapes, but he says that these types of paintings don't offer the same attachment. He likes to work with acrylics because he is able to create oil-style paintings as well as washes, and he paints with muted colors and pastels because he feels that the contrast works to emphasize both.

Dan earned his Bachelor of Arts in commercial art at Pensacola Christian College in Florida. It was there that he

Spoon Self Portrait



learned all mediums and picked up a brush for the first time. After college, he moved back home to Placerville and worked as a counselor for kids coming out of juvenile hall. He says working with kids is something he has always done; he was a camp counselor for years prior to that.

Dan's job helping troubled kids to get on the right track lasted for a year,

but inevitably he couldn't resist following his true passion: art. He took a job as a graphic designer by day and painted by night. For the past year, Dan has worked for Avalon Graphics in Roseville. He says that for him, graphic design is easier than painting, but he enjoys doing both.

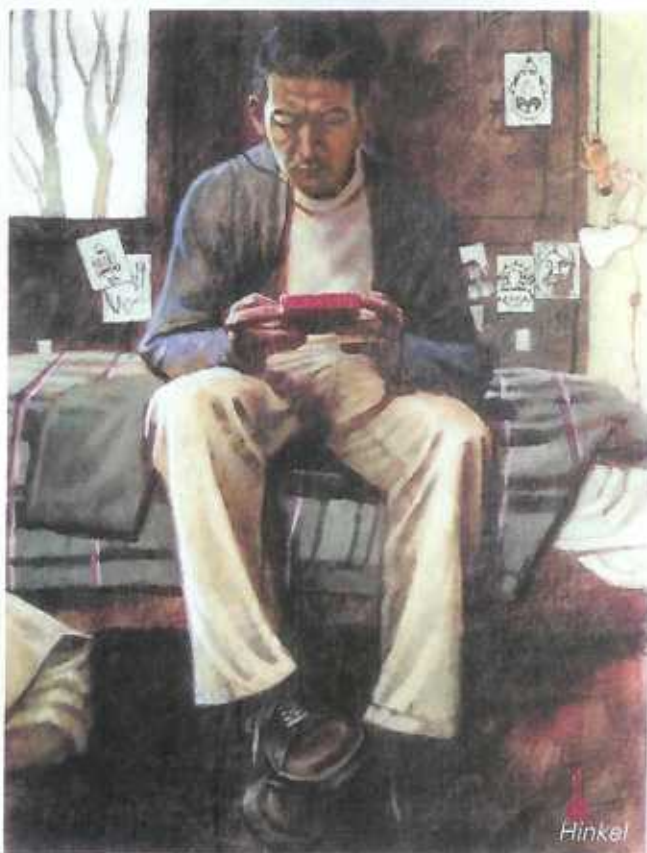
Dan grew up in the small town of Somerset, California, with his parents and two brothers. His younger brother,

Josef, is also an artist who discovered his passion to paint later in life during college. These two are the only painters in the family, and they spend hours on the phone talking about art.

Dan thinks his brother is an incredible painter. To him, his sibling is his "brain brother," he points out. "We spend a lot of time bouncing ideas back and forth," he says.



Pablo



Hinkel

LOCAL ART [DAN CORDOVA]



Bad Hair Day



Sienna



Larry of Louisiana



Dan Cordova

Josef currently has an art show on display in Chaelis Gallery in Placerville, and Dan has had a couple showings in the past, although that isn't his main goal. His chief desire is to keep his pas-

sion alive and to paint as a hobby on a recreational level. "I can't see myself making a living out of painting," he says. "It would take away from my desire to do it and it wouldn't be as fun."

Even though Dan's favorite subjects are his family and friends, he likes painting all kinds of people. To commission a portrait, he can be reached at (916) 303-0343. **IRM**