

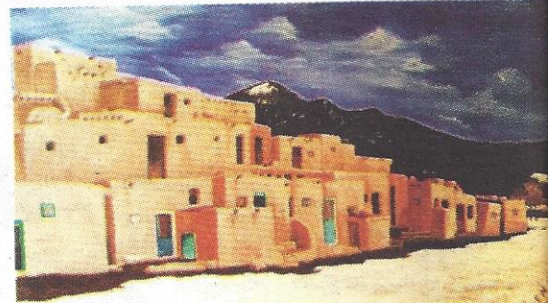
CREATIVE SPIRIT

By Kelley Dawson

Dar Schafer's creativity glows as aurora around her. You aren't only drawn to her; you're captivated by what she's drawn. Schafer, a self-professed free spirit and "hippy at heart," has travelled to 26 countries and said that she is inspired by the places she sees and the



people she meets. She expressed, "The opportunity of lots of travel is incredible; to see what's out there really does inspire you." Schafer stated she often paints by memory, but also with photographs. She started painting at the age of 13 and sold her first painting when she was just 16 years old. In high school, Schafer proclaimed that she was very good with colors. "My fellow art students would call me 'Michelangelo' because if they couldn't mix a color right, I could just do it," she informed.



Schafer still mixes beautiful colors. She paints with oils, acrylics, and water colors. She mentioned her recent parle into abstract art. She paints using mixed media. "Abstract painting never made sense to me before. It's a new challenge and I really like it," admitted Schafer. She believes it helps her progress as an artist. She disclosed, "I'm pouring my heart out telling a personal story, but to each viewer [the painting] tells their own story not just mine. I can lead them in a certain direction and they finish it." Schafer explained she likes to incorporate a lot of texture with her art "to be able to use all senses."

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She wants viewers to "look, touch, feel, and experience." She added, "My paintings are very tactile. Every piece is a part of me telling a story." Schafer feels her more recent abstract works appear to project her Ojibwe Indian heritage.

Schafer's art skills have launched her into a successful designing and remodeling career as well. She said, "People are just amazed at what I can pull off, the same with painting." She stated, "I love working with large canvas. Designing space is a huge canvas and they correlate with each other. The world is also a huge canvas." Schafer revealed she has a keen ability to read people really well and that even perfect strangers will walk up to talk her. Schafer declared, "I can tell right away what

people want." She told of one client who surprised his wife with a large scale painting of adobe homes they visited in New Mexico, and the wife cried upon receipt of the piece. Schafer said, "I knew I did good and continue to want to draw those emotions from people."



Visit www.dartheartist.com to view additional paintings by Schafer or contact her at dar@dartheartist.com or 832-386-5990.

Schafer's paintings will also be on display at Bienville Social 323 Tremont in Galveston during the upcoming Galveston Art Walk from 6 to 9 p.m. on June 4 (galveston.com/artwalk).

ARTS CALENDAR Continued From Page 20

Ocean Star: Offshore Drilling Museum and Education Center, Open Daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Pier 19 at Harborside Dr. & 20th St., Galveston, 409-766-7829, OceanStarOEC.com

San Jacinto Monument & Museum: Open Daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. La Porte, 281-479-2421, sanjacinto-museum.org

Space Center of Houston: 1601 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay 281-224-2100, spacecenter.org

Texas City Museum: Open Tuesday to Sunday, 409 6th Street N., Texas City, 409-643-5799, texas-city-tx.org/Museumabout.htm