

All About Art

Palatine's Tony Armendariz Drawn To Watercolors, Architecture

By DENISE FLEISCHER
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Tony Armendariz of Palatine sees watercolor painting as a form of expression. As a child, he was drawn to Chicago ruins, fascinated with construction or deconstruction. His mother's love of creative arts and jewelry making and his father's photography motivated him to take the creative path.

By the time he was a junior at Lane Tech High School, he knew he wanted a career in commercial or fine art.

"Later in school, at the American Academy of Art, I found myself creating urban scenes," he recalled. "I'd look into a window or doorway and imagine who would live there. When I started painting, I'd tell that story."

Armendariz said a viewer of his artwork will understand that he has created a painting that makes you wonder more about the scene.

By 1986, Armendariz received his Associates degree. While he was still attending the academy, he landed his first full time job in advertising at a small Chicago agency. There, he created pen and ink designs for ads, which he did until 2000. From there he did full and part time design work for a variety of agencies and industries. Then he was employed as a web designer for a number of companies. Since 2006, he has enjoyed creating watercolor paintings.

"In 2007, I became a full time artist with various paint-

ings getting into shows," said Armendariz. "Right now I have about 50 finished paintings."

The opportunity to teach art started at Mainstreet Art Center in Lake Zurich, Oak Park Art League and College of DuPage.

These days, when he isn't working his three part time teaching jobs, you can find him in his home studio. His basement is his creative zone. Rather than dedicating a certain amount of hours to his craft, he paints when he feels like it.

His specialty remains architectural.

"A good example of what I love painting was inspired by several visits to New York," Armendariz said. "Later this year, I'm working on a series of paintings based on the Bronx, the neighborhood near Old Yankee Stadium."

Armendariz's goal is to capture the essence of the Bronx, the different elements of the structures and the neighborhood as a whole. He's already completed three paintings, which feature everyday things you would see when walking to the stadium, such as signs, old ticket booths and the train station. Next would be having a gallery exhibit with the entire collection.

As for his accomplishments, back in the 1980s, he was commissioned to create two murals for a Chicago bowling alley. He was featured in an 8-page article in Watercolor Artist Magazine in 2009. He also enjoys painting life in Cuba based on pictures taken during

his four visits.

"Art dominates my life," he confessed. "I'm always thinking about it. Inspiration hits when I'm not brainstorming. I'll go out and take pictures and

say to myself 'that will make a great painting.'"

Right: "Chartered" by Palatine artist Tony Armendariz.



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"Healthy Hair Starts at the Root."

by Alan Kossof, Salon Director
Teddie Kossof Salon & Spa



One of the most overlooked areas of one's personal hair care is the scalp. That's right, the skin beneath all that hair. Most of us consider a hair care regimen based on our hair type and focus on shampooing & conditioning our hair. But what about your scalp?

Consider your scalp to be soil and your hair to be a plant. Beautiful hair grows from a healthy scalp like a plant in fertile soil. Poor care and hygiene of your scalp can lead to issues that include: dry scalp, scalp itch, flaking, thinning hair and even hair loss!

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There are two easy ways you can improve the overall health of your hair & scalp. First, you need to stimulate your scalp. Most professional salons now offer scalp treatments that can be done in-salon or at home. Cleansing scalp oils will deep clean the surface of your scalp, removing dead skin cells, product build-up and oils that can clog the root bulb and the follicle coming through the scalp. Stimulating the scalp and improving Blood flow on the scalp brings oxygen and nutrients to the root bulb and improving the strength of your hair. Strengthening the root bulb

will lead to a stronger healthier follicle.

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So the next time you purchase your hair care products, consider what you are doing to promote a healthy scalp... and remember - "Healthy hair starts at the root!"

Alan Kossof

Feel free to email alan@teddiekossof.com with any questions regarding this article.



Tony Armendariz's passion for watercolors has led him to New York and Cuba. Architecture is his specialty.

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