

Shoemaker teacher hopes to one day support herself through her paintings

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By Iuliana Petre
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An artist since she was a child, Annette Capps – a physics teacher at Shoemaker High School in Killeen – got serious about art in 1999 when she signed up for a correspondence course with the Art Instruction School while serving in the Army.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I liked to draw and I wanted to get better," Capps said, adding that it took her 18 months to complete the course because she was reassigned to Korea.

While serving overseas Capps passed the time by improving on her technique, reading artists' magazines, researching other techniques online and taking classes offered through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program on the installation.

And it was in Korea that Capps began to work with watercolors.

"I fell in love with (watercolor) and kept on wanting to get better," Capps said. "I read and studied (other people's work) and tried to copy them at first. Then I found my own style."

Capps has a hard time describing her own style, but does say that she enjoys using bold colors and her work contains a lot of contrast.

"I use watercolor a bit more strongly than most people because my stuff is not really pastel looking," Capps said.

Most of Capps' paintings are candid portraits of subjects she photographs and paints later. Candid portraits are more striking than posed ones, Capps said.

"She does a lot of portraits and they're very realistic and large scale, running about 30 by 40 inches. Some of them are a little smaller (28 by 30 inches)," said Monica Weidinger, owner of Frames & Things in Copperas Cove. "She's also done some florals and a kind of abstract painting (that I have here). Hers are high quality watercolors. She's a very talented lady," Weidinger said.

With her art Capps hopes to convey some type of emotion, not just a pretty art piece.

"I want my work to have an impact, to be remembered," Capps said, adding that she doesn't target a specific audience because that is too confining.

And although she's a teacher, Capps' secret wish is to be able to support herself with her art – to travel to different places, create art with different artists, conduct seminars and participate in national art societies – but her immediate goal is to sell some of her pieces as prints and to develop an appreciation for art among the people in Central Texas.

Five of Capps' paintings will be on display at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center this weekend during the Take 190 West festival and her work will be featured during the "Art After Dark" show at Frames & Things in Copperas Cove at 6 p.m. on March 6.

For more information about "Art After Dark," call Frames & Things at (254) 547-8448.

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