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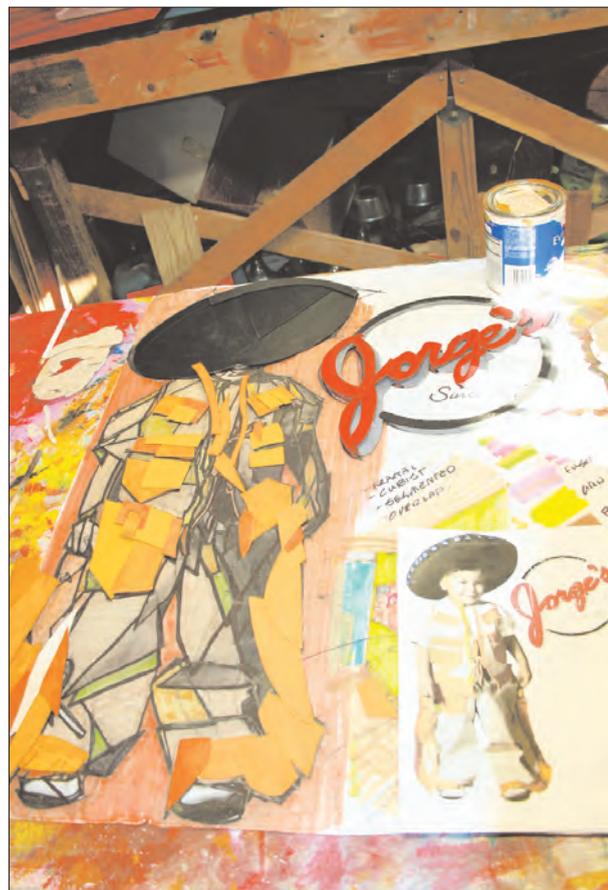


STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CARPENTER

Glenn Comtois in his studio.

Eclectic architect brings art to East Dallas

BY JENNIFER CARPENTER
neighborsgo Editor



An unfinished project Comtois is working on for Jorge's Restaurant.

Walking into the home of Glenn Comtois, one is surrounded with the perfect balance of art and style. Comtois, a seasoned architect and artist, has looked to his profession to design a home that is eclectic and elegant. Comtois and his wife, Heather, bought their 1932 Tudor-style home in the East Dallas neighborhood of Hollywood Heights and immediately went to work renovating the home inside and out to reflect their taste.

Comtois earned his degree in architecture but always felt a pull toward the arts. Throughout his education, he focused his attention toward art and architecture. From 1985 to 1986 he attended the University of North Texas, and in 1989 he joined an international studies program in Florence, Italy, where his love for art and architecture grew. Upon returning to the United States, Comtois received a degree in architecture from Texas A&M.

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Comtois went on to lecture at El Centro College in an effort to give back to his community. In 1999 he created the GCOMTOIS art studio in Dallas to pursue his passion in art.

He started constructing art for his home as a creative outlet, and in 2000 turned it into a full-time job. Many of his earlier pieces are re-masters of paintings done by Picasso and other similar artists. He tried to recreate them using plywood and paint and sometimes added his own personal influence.

"My art is based on my experience in architecture," Comtois said. "My contemporary artwork is based on architecture, mathematics and geometry, and I translate that into my work with forms and shapes."

Comtois uses his artistic expression so people can interact with it more than just visually. He encourages people to touch the art, take in the texture and get a feel for the design. He also works with shadows, bringing a dimension to his art that changes depending on the direction that the light hits it. The majority of his work is comprised of small pieces of painted plywood that he brings together in a unique way.

In 2004, Neiman Marcus commissioned Comtois to create art for stores across the country. Comtois called this his first big break, with more than 60 pieces of his art now displayed at six Neiman Marcus stores.

Comtois got another break when, after seven years of trying, he was finally accepted into the White Rock Lake Artists' Studio Tour. During the tour, his home will be open for people to view his work as well as visit him working in his backyard studio.

"I hope to have a painting that is in production to discuss my process, painting and wood-cutting techniques and tools in my studio," Comtois said.

Comtois will donate paintings for the home tour and art auction, and the proceeds will benefit J. L. Long Middle School.

The 16th annual White Rock Lake Artists' Studio Tour is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 18-19 at 45 locations throughout East Dallas.



STAFF PHOTO BY BY JENNIFER CARPENTER

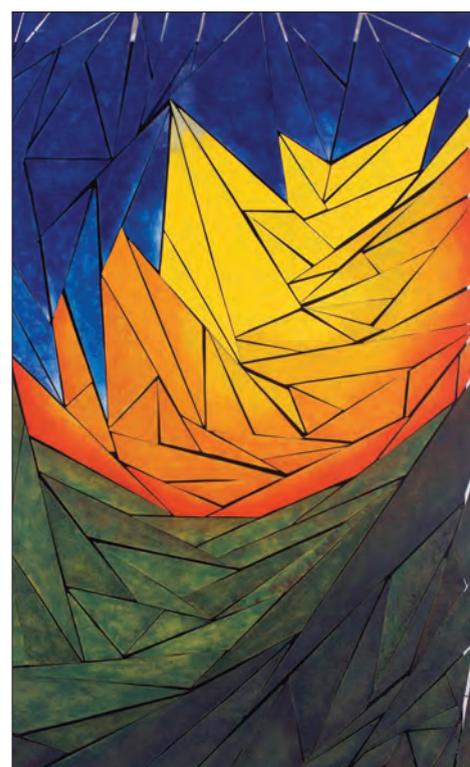


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GLENN COMTOIS



STAFF PHOTO BY BY JENNIFER CARPENTER

Above, The living room of Comtois' home displays his art and eclectic style.

Left, "Mekong Delta" is a wood montage.

Below, Comtois describes his first piece of art as the one that started it all.

MORE INFO

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