



MARCH 27, 2013 / 4 COMMENTS

## “It’s evident that it’s something she’s born with, something she’s inherited”

Dana Donaty jumps out of her seated position, forcing her propped up feet to hit the ground as she speeds over to the nearby area to show off her Aunt Esther’s years of artwork she has left behind. Under the glass table supported by wagon wheels instead of table legs are innumerable sketches and watercolors created by Esther. On the backside of sketches are handwritten instructions on how to reciprocate the painting, including details on how to mix the paint. As Dana reaches for a wooden box, she opens it revealing numerous 8×10 oil paintings, each in their own slot, as the aroma of the cigar box fills the air.

Dana Donaty has years of experience with faux finishes and murals from attending college at Moore College of Art and Design to living in England for 12 years.

“People ask me what type of artist I am. I’m an awesome artist,” said Dana.

Friends and colleagues see Dana’s day to day passion in her artwork and the impact her family has had on her.

“It’s evident that it’s something she’s born with, something she’s inherited. It’s in her veins,” states Nancy Stewart-Franczak, executive director of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and friend of Dana Donaty.

The artistic blood that runs through Dana’s veins comes from her Mother’s side, a line of artists and writers, such as her Aunt Esther.

“She lived a full life,” Dana Donaty, artist of Boynton Beach Florida, comments about her late Aunt Esther, who worked out of her studio in Colombia, where she created her masterpieces, as well as living her life passion as a teacher.

Esther’s layers of art she had accumulated over 84 years of living have a true impact on Dana’s life and career. From Esther’s homemade palettes to color charts, her hard work and passion for art is evident.

"She fully surrendered to her art," said Dana in reference to her Aunt Esther's process of creating.

Before Dana begins to paint her murals, such as her recent Jim Morrison mural, she designs the piece on her computer at her solo cubicle, built for her in the corner of her living room, since "there is no place for me [Dana] in the corporate world."

Upon completing her "mental gymnastics," Dana has accomplished the most challenging step in the process of creation. Her favorite part of working on a project is when she begins adding more to the piece she had no intention of in the original plans. This is when the "conversation" begins between Dana and the art, and she is fully immersed in her piece.

"There comes a time when someone has to scream brushes down. I want to keep going."

"The client doesn't know when you're done with a piece or not. It's the artist integrity to keep going and pass their expectations," said Dana Donaty.

More and more people are familiar with Dana Donaty's artwork, from those viewing it displayed on posters advertising local festivals and parades, to her "clients with wings" (client who owns their own airline), to her appearance coming up in the Big Easel at the annual Delray Affair, her art is widely known.

Dana still believes there is always room to grow. She is currently illustrating a book for the first time for a client, in preparation of one day publishing her own, as well as her Aunt Esther's book that has yet to be published.

She has plans to build her new studio, modeled after Esther's in Colombia, and those invited over will be able to witness the act of Dana Donaty fully surrendering herself to her art.



*Dana's mural found at Spot Coffee in Delray Beach*



*"High horse" in Dana Donaty's Home Studio*

## About the author

Sarah

"Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Sarah

## About the post

Uncategorized

art, artist, creativity, murals

## 4 Comments

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1. DANA DONATY MARCH 28, 2013 — 1:06 PM

Great story Sarah.....Awesome writing.....thank you 😊

**REPLY**

2. **Sarah Suwak MARCH 28, 2013 — 10:25 PM**

Had an awesome time writing it! 😊

**REPLY**

3. **Nancy Stewart-Franczak MARCH 29, 2013 — 12:04 PM**

Great story

**REPLY**

4. **lori5grace MARCH 31, 2013 — 12:17 PM**

great story! thanks for sharing.

**REPLY**

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