

# Beyond the Easel

## Art Tour

*Editor's note: The "Art Tour" also will include a series of stories which will tell of places around the county that provide for good en plein air (outdoors) painting.*

The El Dorado Lake provides numerous opportunities for artists throughout the year.

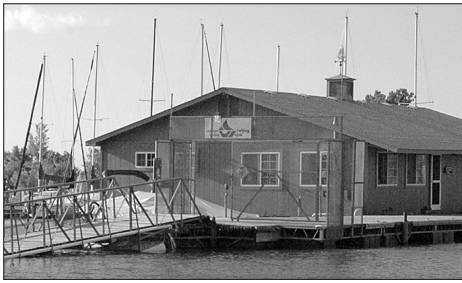
One location at the lake that provides inspiration for paintings is the boat dock.

The relaxing atmosphere and natural surroundings make for a wonderful working environment for artists.



Augusta artist Wilena Tuschhoff is one artist who enjoys this location to paint.

"I have done work en plein air at the El Dorado Lake there by the boat docks," she said. "I loved sitting there looking at all the boats and being outside painting what I saw on paper, all the shapes and colors. The best light to paint under is the natural sunlight you get outside. Everything just looks amazing."



There are two different boat docks at the lake. There is the large marina with a variety of styles of boats and the sailboat marina, that while only sailboats, still offers a variety of color for a painting.

It's not hard to find an out-of-the way place to set up and paint at either of these locations.

~ Story by Julie Clements; location suggested by artist Wilena Tuschhoff

*Editor's Note: If you have a favorite place to paint in the area that you would like to share with others, send a description of what you like about that location, where it is located and any tips on the best time of day or year to paint there to editor@eldoradotimes.com*



## Art Tip

"Just because you may not be as good as someone else, you can still do art. It took me a long time to realize, you have to learn your style. Do what you do and do the best you can with that. Just really home in to that like your signature; it's your style."

~ Amboo Ploy



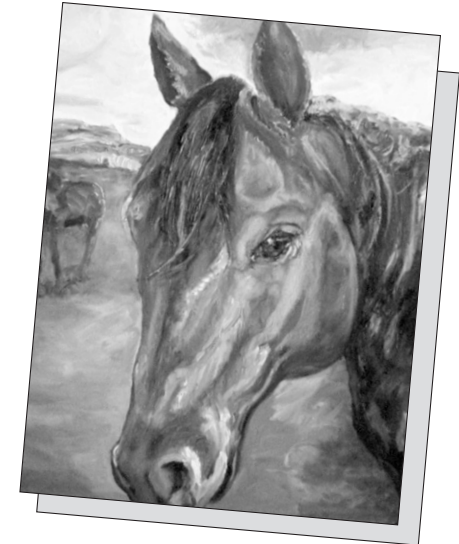
with Angela Craver



Angela Craver of El Dorado has always been a visually minded and creative person. She describes her art as American Western art. She uses techniques of painting that include the use of glazing and impasto layers to achieve a sculptural quality and pleasing luminosity. She hopes to convey history and culture in her work. She is represented by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation in North Dakota and Circle Gallery in El Dorado. She also was just featured at Walter's Floral. She will be displaying at Art in the Garden at Botanica this year and a one-woman show at Circle Gallery in March for Women's History Month. Her favorite way to showcase her art is in her home and studio.

### Q What do you enjoy about art?

**A** *Not to sound cliché, but it is almost difficult to put into words. It is a passion that is so ingrained in me that as I go throughout my day, I look at the world around my as opportunities for paintings. The way light strikes objects, color schemes, people, landscapes, etc. The observation and interpretation are like one complicated exciting puzzle. You know the saying, "tortured artist?" sometimes it almost feels that way. I don't have enough time, or supplies to create and paint all of the images that I would like to create. Maybe added to that the feeling of "being in the flow" and of being connected to God, has something to do with it. There is just no other feeling like it!*



### Q How and when did you get interested in art?

**A** *I remember the moment when I was 5 and the realization of how to pick a line up from a three-dimensional object and drop it down onto paper, came to me. I truly thought I had found the key to life. As far as creating, I was always into something like mixing chemicals to cause explosions at age 4, designing and sewing my own clothes at age 8 and making papier-mâché puppets, writing the script, and putting on puppet shows for neighborhood kids.*



### Q Where do you get your inspiration and how do you turn that into a painting?

**A** *Quite a few subject ideas come to me at night. Other times I am just at the right place at the right time to capture an image that speaks to me, on camera. Sometimes I use just one image to work from and other times I will incorporate several. I usually just start painting on the canvas without sketching or anything. I have a lot of know-how as to addressing certain issues of a painting but at the same time, I don't like to be locked into rules. Observation and interpretation are of top priority to me. It is not just about how the image looks in the end but how the image pulls the viewer in and moves them in some way.*



### Q Who are your favorite artists?

**A** *I can't really say that I have any favorite artists. I can mention, however individuals whose artistic abilities strike me and have influenced me. Di Vinci is hands down an incredible mind and the approach of line, in his drawing genius. Maxfield Parish's treatment of color is beautiful and striking. Native American artists like Oscar Howe have also influenced me in line and composition. Japanese designs with their fluency of line and negative space have impacted art nevue, which I was surrounded by as a child. I also deeply respect and relate to my husband's grandmother, Ireta Skipper Swietzer who was an Appalachian artist. The Pennsylvania Impressionistic movement definitely had an influence on me.*

## Art events in August through October

**THROUGH AUGUST 27**  
**The Coutts Memorial Museum of Art** will show the exhibit "Life's Colors," which features wildlife art by Gayle Clayborn and photographs by Dr. Richard Kuhns. The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6**

**"Can't Show That In Topeka!"** will be on exhibit at South-Wind Gallery (in the Loft Gallery) in Topeka. This is the second annual figurative art show, featuring works by Kansas artists, including El Dorado artist Jim Clements.

**AUGUST 19**

**The Brown Bag Lunch** will feature Peter Johnson, renowned Kansas artist and printmaker. The event begins at noon at the

Coutts Memorial Museum of Art, 110 N. Main. The event, sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission, El Dorado Main Street, Artscape Committee and the Coutts, is free and open to the public.

**SATURDAY - AUGUST 23**  
**The Coutts Memorial Museum of Art** will hold an "Art See" at 2 p.m. The museum is located at 110 N. Main.

**AUGUST 29 THROUGH**

**OCTOBER 19**

**The American Plains Artists 24th Annual Juried Exhibition** will be held at the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas. The show will include work by local artist Jim Clements.

**SEPTEMBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 26**  
**Mary Binford Miller** will have some of her work in a show in Lindsborg at the Sandzen, "In Pursuit of Light." There will be a reception from

2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 5.

**SEPTEMBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 19**

**The National Small Oil Painting Exhibition 2008** will be held at the Wichita Center for the Arts, 9112 E. Central. The show will include work by local artist Jim Clements.

*To submit your art show or event, call the Times at 321-1120 or e-mail editor@eldoradotimes.com.*

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