

# Artist Makes Recycling a Beautiful Thing

Local artist and muralist, Amy Tubbs, has found a practical way to use all her old, dried paint. She creates beautiful works of art with them— again!

“I guess in a way, it’s recycling,” she says. “I’ve always been fascinated by the way a dried paint palette looks; it seems to take on a life of it’s own.

The colors do what they want... mix, swirl, and peel off in interesting shapes. It’s as if they have their own personalities.”

Amy showcases these ‘paint personalities’ with her latest series simply titled *Paint Blossoms*. These brightly dynamic flowers are made entirely of old paint chips. “I chose the subject of flowers because, well, I love flowers... they make me happy.”



“Plus they’re a great subject matter to show off a wide array of colors and textures. I really wanted to create something very organic and 3-dimensional that just begs to be touched,” she explains. “But please don’t touch them, they are extremely fragile,” she adds.

Often times, she says, her dried palettes are as interesting as the art she creates intentionally. Though cleaning up is just part of the job, Amy says she loves the process of peeling off dried paint and jokingly likens it to the relaxing satisfaction of popping bubble wrap.



*Above: Half-created flowers surrounded by possible ‘paint petals.’*

When working on her flowers, the artist says she sorts the paints into piles based on color and sizes. Then she glues the petals together and carefully builds each composition. “Because these paints are plastic-based, they are very pliable and easy to fold and twist into interesting shapes,” she explains. Lastly, each piece gets a shiny spray of clear coating.

## *Artist Makes Recycling a Beautiful Thing, continued*

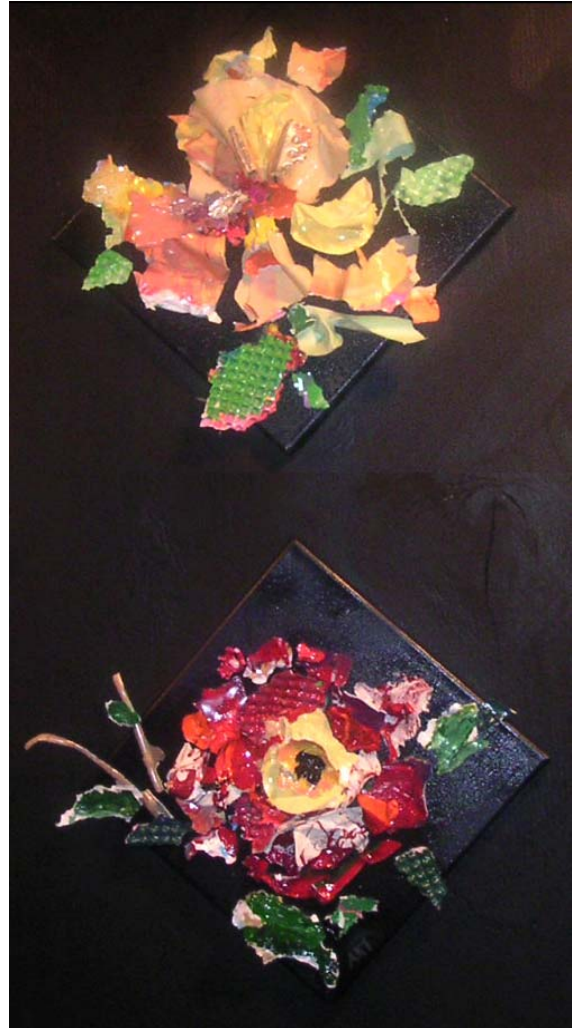
When asked how long it took her to collect all the paint needed to create her latest series, Amy confides, “umm...longer than I’d like to admit.

Depending on what I’m painting, you don’t always get fun, vibrant colors. And sometimes they don’t peel off very well.” But when it comes to finding specific colors for a paint blossom, apparently there are rules. “I never just dry some paint intentionally... somehow, that feels like cheating.”

Her work will be on display at the ARTOMATIC show in northeast Washington from May 9 through June 15.

Her display consists of nine canvases showing her flower representations. The series includes a poppy, iris, rose, two orchids and cherry blossoms, to name a few.

When she’s not at her Alexandria studio creating interesting works of art from recycled paint, Amy has worked full-time as a muralist and custom painter for over 5 years. You can view more of her work— and the walls that potentially helped create her paint blossoms— on her website, [www.amytubbs-studio.com](http://www.amytubbs-studio.com).



*Above: Two of the flowers on display, the iris and the artist’s favorite, the poppy.*

Overall, when it comes to her latest works of art, she doesn’t appear to take herself too seriously. “You might love it, or not. But you have to admit, it’s definitely something different.”

For more information on ARTOMATIC, visit their website at [www.artomatic.org](http://www.artomatic.org).

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