

RECYCLED ART

Innovative paint-on-canvas art by Amy K. Tubbs



From the Artist

Thank you for your interest in my recycled art. This catalogue not only shows you my various pieces, but it also chronicles the inspiration behind my creations and educates the reader on the process.

For me, the true beauty of these works of art exists in the nuances and subtle detail- the way the colors effortlessly swirl together and the shape the form takes. As a whole, the canvases take on exciting textures and compositions, but as you look closely you will see that each tiny piece is worthy of its own scrutiny and appreciation. My recycled art is a visual feast that keeps you engaged and constantly looking for that next beautifully surprising element. To really appreciate these works, you must see them up close. But I hope this catalogue will provide a starting point for your journey.

Although many of the pieces displayed in this catalogue are currently on loan in collections or purchased, my intent for including them was so you could see the history of my work. So much of what I create is custom- taking into account specific colors, sizes and styles- and I'd be happy to create something especially for you as well!

Enjoy,

Amy

Artist Makes Recycling a Beautiful Thing

By Julie Bleeker
May 19, 2008

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 its own. The colors do what they want... mix, swirl, and peel off in interesting shapes, 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,” she adds.

Often times, she says, her dried palettes are as interesting 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.

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 spray of clear coating.

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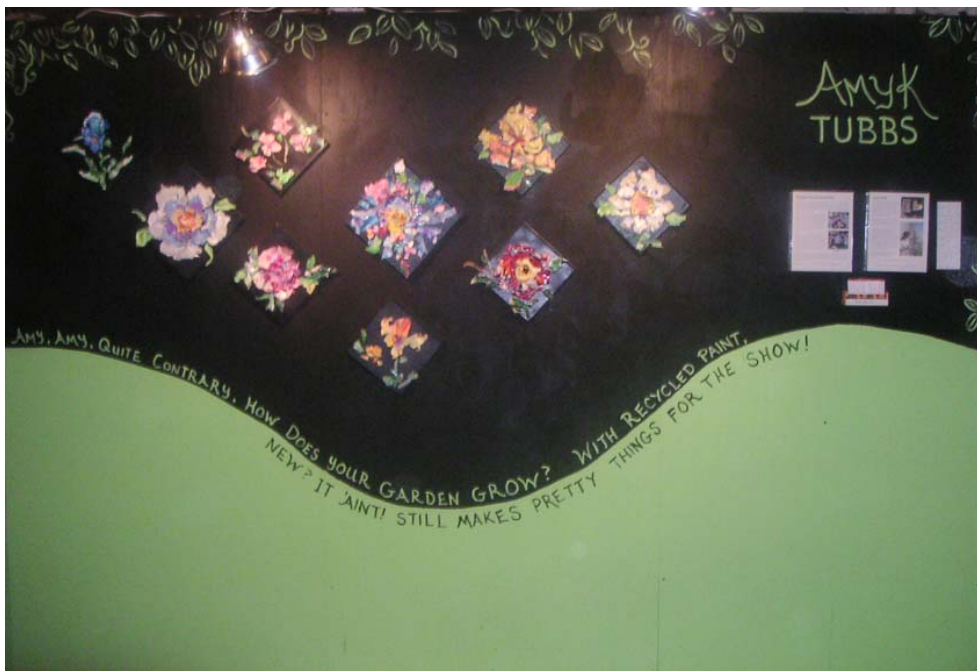
Above: Half-created flowers surrounded by possible ‘paint petals.’

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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.”

“This is recycling at its finest,” says Amy, “it’s literally acrylic on canvas— just in an unexpected way.” 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 7 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. 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.” □



The Debut of Paint Blossoms: May 2008

Amy’s first public exhibit of Recycled Art was in Washington D.C.’s famed Artomatic show. Her display consisted of nine canvases showcasing her flower representations. The series included a poppy, iris, rose, two orchids and cherry blossoms. This series has also been on display at the Arlington Library’s Recycled Art Exhibit as well as the Kingstowne Area Artist Association spring show. Many of these pieces are available for purchase.

Yellow Iris
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$175



Red Poppy
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$175



** Many of these blossoms are designed to hang on the angle, rather than squarely. Some pieces can go either direction, however.*

Aster
12" x 12"
acrylic & latex on canvas
sold



Blue Iris
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$125



Rose
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$125



Pansy
12" x 12"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$125



Cherry Blossoms
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$125



Daisy
10" x 10"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$125





Trees—a new series for 2009

Building on the excitement and positive response from her first exhibit of recycled art, Amy set out the following year to do even more. Taking into account the constructive criticism of her peers and potential clients, Amy wanted to construct pieces that were a little more subdued and ‘earthy.’

“Everyone had great things to say about the *Blossoms* series,” Amy says, “but unfortunately what kept most from buying was the fact that the colors were too intense for many of my client’s décor. I set out to make a bold statement about the beauty and possibility of recycled art— and I think I achieved that- but for this next exhibit, I want the viewer to see the potential in owning and displaying the piece.” Amy’s hunch paid off, as she sold 4 pieces from her tree series. “Both the colors and the unique, slender size of the pieces made them very marketable,” she adds. Not everyone has the space for a giant rectangular piece, but many have stairwells and hallways just begging for some interest!”

This new canvas series, simply entitled *Trees*, build on the idea of incorporating dried paint into the composition. “This year, I wanted to take my pieces to a much bigger scale,” says Amy. She adds, “plus I wanted to combine the paint chips with brush strokes.” Using nature as her favorite source of inspiration, Amy felt that trees were an ideal way to show off a variety of colors and techniques. As an artist who makes her living mostly on commissioned work, Ms. Tubbs really enjoys the break from ‘typical’ methods. “Instead of creating the color, I have to FIND it”, she explains, adding that she has been collecting peeled paint chips since last year’s show.



Magnolia
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$325



Poplar
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$325





Bamboo on red
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$325



Bamboo on brown
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
sold





Cherry Blossoms
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
sold





Snow Blossoms

26" x 14"

acrylic & latex on canvas

\$200

Currently on loan



Hollyhocks
16" x 20"
acrylic & latex on canvas
sold



Cherry Blossoms II
16" x 62"
acrylic & latex on canvas
sold

Drip
18" x 34"
acrylic & latex on canvas
\$150

