



Artist Spotlight: Norco resident says art helps to heal and stir the imagination.



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David Ehlen's appearance and demeanor radiates creativity.

"The strongest force in my life is my creative passion," he said. "Each artwork is a different form of communication or expression of that passion. Each artwork tells its own story in its own way."

Ehlen tells mind-bending stories through a wild ride of colorful images influenced by surrealism, cubism and abstract expressionism. He tells visual narrative stories of love, fear, friendship and family -- often considering his stories successful when they evoke responses from his viewers.

Story continues below



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David Ehlen's "work combines the conventions of surrealism and cubism," said Jill Jones, first vice president of the Corona Art Association. This work is called "Terminal Intensity 8: The Undoing."

"When people respond to my art, I know I'm on the right path," Ehlen said. "Art helps to heal, to imagine and to answer the important questions we all have in life."

"David's work combines the conventions of surrealism and cubism with his personal icons and images to create dream worlds full of questions and mystery," said Jill Jones, first vice president of the Corona Art Association. "His paintings beckon the viewer in, arousing our curiosity and challenging us to search out an understanding of the

thoughts and feelings the images stir within us."

A graduate of one of the best art schools in the country, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ehlen lives in Norco and maintains a studio there where he paints regularly. He exhibits extensively in Southern California as well as Minneapolis and Chicago.

In addition to painting, Ehlen also creates unique sculptural works that push the traditional boundaries. He enjoys collaborating and sharing his techniques with others on these projects, particularly children. His next sculpture demonstration will be 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 13 at the Corona Public Library "Extreme Arts" event.

Story continues below



"Terminal Intensity 1: The Beginning," is one of David Ehlen's paintings.

A member of the Corona Art Association, Ehlen's artwork is on exhibition at the association's Art House Gallery in Corona's Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Parkway, 951-898-9554, www.CoronaArtAssociation.com, through two shows this summer. There will an artists' reception 5:30-7:00 p.m. Aug. 23.

For more information about Ehlen's art, visit www.davidehlen.com.

For more information about the Artist Spotlight, please contact Daniel Foster, Riverside Art Museum at 951-684-7111 or dfoster@RiversideArtMuseum.org