



WILL PAINT FOR SHOES

Dana Donaty has two distinct passions. One is for painting; the other is for shoes. A successful career in the former enables her to continue collecting the latter. At last count the third bedroom of her Boynton home housed 200 pair (winter shoes are still up north in storage). But this story is more about Dana's promising painting career than it is about her shopping prowess and so let's begin.

BY JANE DAGMI



DELRAY DECOR



Jane Dagmi

It all started back in New Jersey. Dana's parents encouraged creativity and enrolled her in a myriad of art and dance classes. Dana went on to earn a BFA at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, and soon after moved to Los Angeles to live by the beach and launch a career in the arts.

She fell in love and moved to London. Her love for the city outlasted her love for the man and so she stayed for twelve years soaking up the incredible architecture, art scene and daily culture, both high and low. London was also great for its proximity to continental Europe (shoes!!!). With a lot of memories to savor, Dana moved onto Boynton Beach, where she's been for a little over a year.



Dana's sassy, vivacious and quite the individualist. But she also feels strongly about community. She's a member of the Delray and Boca Chambers of Commerce. You may have glimpsed Dana's artwork out and about.

- She created the 2006 First Night poster and the beach mural (pictured) currently lives at "Here Comes the Sun" on Atlantic Avenue. Last year her mural work was featured in the American Lung Association show house in Palm Beach, and this year she is transforming a space at Broward County's Inaugural Red Cross Designer Show House scheduled to open to the public on March 1.

In between these special projects, she fulfills client wishes. From trompe l'oeil to faux finishes, abstract renderings and figurative painting, Dana can tackle any style. Beyond the mastery of technique, she researches each project. If there is an animal theme, she will look through her reference and art books and visit zoos to witness live movements of the desired animals. She never leaves the house without her camera because she doesn't want to miss any inspiration.

Dana lives in a nice but ordinary gated family community.

From the outside it looks typical, like all the others. Inside however, it looks more like a downtown New York loft space. The floor is spattered with paint and finished artwork leans up on walls, stacked and ready to ship. Canvases in progress are pinned up on the walls, and furniture is minimal. Her most prized furnishing is her hand rubbed oak Jack Richeson easel which can hold a 10' x 10' painting. It is the centerpiece of the living room.

The "dining room" is a storage and idea area. Dana painted one wall with layers of magnetic paint. Here on the giant magnet board, she tries out ideas, writes down what she needs to remember, and keeps funny photos, important invitations, and clippings handy. Her beloved brushes are stored here too. This is her most cherished collection and she has been collecting them for 20 years. Almost every brush has a story and each one accomplishes a different stroke or technique.



Dana's days of hard physical work demand some nighttime luxury. Her Asian-inspired bedroom is very serene, anchored by a clean lined dark wood tester bed that she special ordered at the Beached Boat. She dresses it simply in refined French quilts and soft sheets. This is quite possibly the best setting for dreaming of the next pair of Jimmy Choos. ■ ■ ■ ■

See Dana's work at danadonaty.com or call her at (561) 504-3373