

The Daily Iberian

■ **Newspaper of the Year**

(Louisiana Press Association, Division III)

■ **Expansion**

Cardiologist joins local hospital.

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College coaches enjoy big day for programs.

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Fun art:

Late artist's works are on display now.

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Artwork on display

BY BOBBIE J. CLARK
THE DAILY IBERIAN

The artwork of Eugene Martin, who died Jan. 1, will be at Clementine Dining and Spirits in New Iberia until Feb. 19.

Martin's art has been on display at Clementine, at 113 E. Main St., since Jan. 10. A wine and cheese reception will be conducted Friday at Clementine, featuring Martin's wife, Suzanne, who is a biology professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"We have about 82 or 83 pieces up," said Clementine Marketing Director Sarah Peltier. "It's a tribute show. He had a really interesting life."

Peltier said Martin is originally from Washington D.C., but moved to Lafayette about six years ago.

"He calls his work satirical abstractions," Peltier said. "He used fun titles. He always believed his role was to produce, not sell."

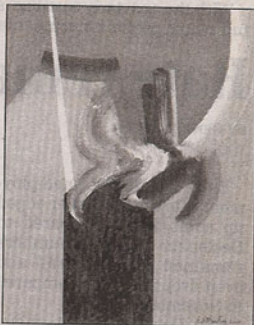
Some of those fun titles include, "Throw Me Something Mister" and "Burned Toast and Cheese."

Suzanne Martin said her husband painted images that make people think.

"He never repeated himself," she said. "Every painting was something new. He was full of creativity."

She said when he began to paint, he never knew what the end product was going to look like.

"He started with a blank slate in his mind and on the canvas," she said. "He had full control of his own life. That's why he was very free, and it showed in his art."



SUBMITTED

Eugene Martin's "Burned Toast and Cheese."

Even after a stroke and brain hemorrhage a few years ago, he never lost a step.

"It didn't slow him down," she said. "He continued to paint and adapted new ways of painting. He was so talented."

"He said it's better to do one thing very good than be a jack of all trades. He was a loner, an individualist."

She said her husband was a true artist, doing it for himself.

"He didn't care what people thought about his art or if he sold anything," she said. "He had to create. It was his driving force."

She said he could paint anywhere, not needing inspiration from outside sources.

"He got it from within," she added.

She said Martin had been a full-time artist since he was 20 years old, starting in his hometown of Washington D.C.

"He did what so many other artists wanted to do," she said. "He was a full-time artist, and he was successful."