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31 paintings in 31 days....

Harrison artist accepts challenge

By Tina Emmick
Staff Writer

Daryl Urig, an accomplished Harrison artist whose work is displayed throughout the country, has taken on a personal challenge of painting one painting each day during the month of May and is selling the works online.

Creating a painting a day is a growing trend with artists, said Urig. The gimmick provides a way to bring attention to their art and allows them to offer smaller works for sale at more affordable prices, he said.

"What a fun way to collect," said Urig.

Urige, 52, has an easel set up in the garage of his Ridgeview Drive home and intends to paint one 4 inch by 6 inch oil painting each day for 31 days. Urig has produced one painting each day since May 1.

Urige's unframed paintings are auctioned at his Web site, www.darylurig.com. Each auction lasts 15 days and the minimum bid is \$70. Urig had sold one painting as of Tuesday, May 19.

Painting on such a small canvas is new for him, Urig said.

"It's been a challenge for me, I generally work pretty big," said Urig. "I'm having to simplify. This is the smallest I've ever done but everything is an opportunity to learn."

Urige said he is happy with the paintings he has done so far but feels his best work of the month is yet to come. After his painting marathon is over, he plans to continue painting on canvases smaller than his usual 2 feet by 3 feet size.

Urige has dabbled in watercolors and acrylic paints but said his favorite medium is oil.

"The color is best and I like the way you can apply and manipulate colors," said



Harrison artist Daryl Urig works on a small painting in his garage Friday, May 15. Urig has committed to painting 31 oil paintings in 31 days and is auctioning his work online at www.darylurig.com.

PHOTO BY TINA EMMICK/HARRISON PRESS

Urige. "Oil has a tactile feel. If you have the color, the image sets right in space. I get the color in first and add details later. That's what makes me happy."

Urige is passionate about painting objects and scenes of everyday life.

"I will go out and take photos, I like shots of Americana," said Urige. "The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, is the greatest museum I've

seen to date."

Urige has been influenced by impressionist painters but said his style varies according to his mood when he sits down to paint.

"The image that emerges depends on how I feel about the subject and technique I decide to use," said Urige.

Many of Urige's paintings are of his wife of four years, Robyn. Urige especially enjoys painting her in their back yard.

"I love the dancing of light and the warm and cool colors the light brings to the garden," said Urige.

Robyn has been his greatest inspiration and supports his dream of one day painting full time, said Urige.

In addition to painting, Urige is the director of Total Media Source, Inc., an Internet marketing company he started about 14 years ago. Urige is also an adjunct

professor of design at the University of Cincinnati.

Urige grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in Avon Lake, Ohio, near Cleveland. He received a bachelor of fine arts in illustration degree from the Columbus College of Art and Design and studied illustration and figure drawing at DuCrete School of Arts.

After graduation, he worked in New York and New Jersey as a freelance book cover and magazine illustrator.

He moved to Cincinnati in 1984 and worked as a commercial artist designing packaging for Procter and Gamble. In 1986, his design was chosen for the poster promoting Cincinnati Oktoberfest.

During his senior year in college, his work was chosen for the cover of *Dialogue Magazine*. The work won a juried show and was exhibited in the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts.

Urige is a member of the Cincinnati Art Club, the oldest art club in the nation, he said. Between eight and 23 members gather weekly to paint together, he said.

Urige is a member of the Portrait Society of America and Oil Painters of America. His work is displayed in the Toledo Museum of Art and in exhibits throughout the country. Urige is represented by Closson's, a Cincinnati store that sells fine art and furniture.