

Nichols News

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THE JOY OF COLOR

By Lauren Hammack Photo by K.O. Rinearson

If you've been lucky enough to be seated near one of her paintings at Deep Fork Grill, you've probably fallen into a color-induced trance during lunch or dinner without even knowing that it was Joy Richardson who cast that spell.

Friends, colleagues and total strangers agree that the most aptly named woman around has long been the subject of admiration for her witty commentary and observations as a social columnist for *FRIDAY* newspaper in northwest Oklahoma City for the past 17 years.

This month, as the Festival of the Arts heralds Oklahoma City's official start to spring, even more people will find themselves irresistibly entranced by Joy Richardson as she showcases her unique, mesmerizing gift for color among a vibrant display of contemporary abstract art.

In preparation of her second year at the Festival, Richardson freely admits that she's been "painting like a manic rainbow!" Asked exactly how colorful this exhibit promises to be, she cheerfully replies, "Put on your dark glasses!"

Routinely inventing colors – as in her new favorite color, a pink and orange *mélange* she calls "porange" – Richardson has spent a lifetime working in color, the definitive signature of any piece she touches. Like most of the masters, she demonstrated early signs of artistic greatness. "My mom used to lose her appetite when I'd bake a cake and frost it," Richardson recalls. "If a little color was pleasing, a whole bunch had to be better!" she says, noting that the better experiments were "porange," while more disappointing ones took on a tinge of "that unpleasant pea-brown-purple."

With her husband-turned-agent, Jerry, close at hand throughout the Festival (no doubt entertaining the masses at Joy's booth), Joy Richardson will welcome spring in the most appropriate fashion: in vivid color. Put on your dark glasses and visit Joy at Booth #5C at the Festival of the Arts, downtown from April 20-25, and at www.joyrichardsonart.com. ■

