

## CONTRA COSTA TIMES

---

Posted on Sat, May. 27, 2006

## Painter's 'feel-good' work promotes annual festival

**SAN RAMON:** For second year, San Jose artist creates poster for Art and Wind event

By Jennifer Shaw  
CORRESPONDENT

Sylvia Paz's acrylic paintings have been called whimsical, inspired by a play on words, an eavesdropped banter between friends, a piece of food, "the way candy happens to be sitting in a bowl at Christmas."

The creations reflect her blend of cubism and American pop art -- with typically vibrant colors, the canvases are characteristically fun.

"My instructors always told me I couldn't meld styles or mix this color with that color," said Paz. "I said, 'Why not?' I've created something I don't think too many people have seen before."

And for the second year, the San Jose artist has painted the promotional poster for the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival.

"She came up with an energetic design that captures the spirit of the festival," said Kathi Heimann, program manager of cultural arts and special events for the city of San Ramon. "She just takes off with it. She's got this amazing, optimistic energy and it really comes through in her work."

Paz's passion for art -- specifically the cubist style -- originated in early childhood, when her parents took her to an exhibit at an area museum. A work by Picasso depicting a woman simultaneously looking at the viewer from different angles had caught her eye, and the kindergartner tried to replicate it.

"I was always thinking that was cool that people could paint and have their art up," she recalled. "If I could go to school and draw all day I would be happy ... I was always doodling, always the first one to enroll in that art class."

Paz's artistic path took a detour for a few years while she raised her sons, encouraging their artistic side, helping to put a creative flair to their class projects. She also worked in the high-tech field, at Apple, Claris Corporation and Adobe Systems.

"With digital imaging, I found a new passion. I could do art on the computer," she said. "Instead of a pencil, I'd be using a tabloid or a mouse."

Her return to her avocation in 1996 was marked by producing a show, "One Woman, Many Faces," inspired by an appreciation of the works of Andy Warhol. The show featured a circa 1956 photograph of Lucille Ball on 15 different painted surfaces.

After a three-year break due to a family situation, Paz again resumed her painting path in 1999. Her work was exhibited at a San Jose coffeehouse. She had been relying on selling online at local shows before opting to become a full-time artist in May 2002.

In 2004, Paz opened her gallery/studio, Sonya Paz Fine Art Gallery in Santa Clara, expanding the facility in November 2005, as the size of her canvases grew.

Paz will exhibit at the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival on May 28 and 29. For more information, visit her Web site, [www.sonyapaz.com](http://www.sonyapaz.com).

### ART AND WIND FESTIVAL

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday-Monday