

# An Abstract World

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*Based on an article in Village Magazine, March 2006, that was written By James Combs  
– Photos by William Wilhelm*



While most people prefer art that deals with realism, Rich Davis of The Villages prefers it when paint is dripped, dropped, smeared and spattered onto the canvas. His paintings are like beautiful intellectual puzzles – masses of color mixed and tangled together. Rich is a talented watercolor and acrylic painter whose work is prominently showcased along the walls of his home.

His 36-year career as an industrial designer fueled his passion for painting. In that job, he sketched unique designs of digital computers, cameras and other machinery that would later be created and sold. Of course, that required more specific attention to detail than abstract art, yet both have allowed him to utilize his creative mind.

Today, he spends nearly 20 hours a week painting. Since he and his wife, Helen, moved to The Villages in 2003, Rich has joined the Visual Arts Association and the Villages

Art League. He has entered his work in juried art shows and has received several awards. His paintings have been showcased at La Galleria in the La Hacienda Center, local banks and local libraries.

Of course, he understands that abstract art can often be misunderstood. “I have a pet theory: to be an artist you have to be tough. If you attend an art show and display your paintings, expect to receive every kind of comment under the sun. You have to take criticism with a grain of salt.”

But Rich doesn't have to worry whether his work pleases Helen. She said that his paintings beautify their Villages home. “I love them all,” she said. “Each one has its own character and personality. It's amazing what he comes up with.” 🌸



\*\* See Several of Riches paintings on display at Citizens First Bank – Spanish Springs \*\*

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