





Northeast Tarrant

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Artist's hallmark 'ladies' get her wide exposure

BY AMAN BATHEJA
abatheja@star-telegram.com

Trish Biddle finds inspiration for her paintings wherever she can. This week, the source is Google Images.

For the Westlake Academy Foundation's upcoming Gallery Night fundraiser, Biddle, 43, agreed to offer a work featuring Paris' Louvre Museum. Though she had been there about 10 years ago with her husband, she needed a detailed image on which to base her work.

On Google, she found a photo of a family eating lunch at a restaurant that overlooks the museum. She's been working on the piece all week, replacing the family with her signature fashionable ladies. Biddle plans to complete the painting Friday night before it's auctioned off. Proceeds will go toward educating students at Westlake Academy.

"I'll probably leave one of the ladies out and finish her dress and hat at the fundraiser," Biddle said.

The event is just the latest example of how much in demand Biddle has become since she began incorporating a group of sophisticated women in her paintings of posh locations. It started as a kind of escapist fantasy for the mother of two, but her growing popularity has recently allowed her to enjoy the kind of glamorous experiences straight out of her art deco works.

Last year, Biddle was invited to be the official artist of the Kentucky Derby. Her depictions of impeccably dressed women watching the race from the bleachers were plastered everywhere at the sporting event.

This month, Biddle was again in the spotlight as the official artist of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. She brought an unfinished painting to the competition portraying the stage at Madison Square Garden filled with past best-in-show dogs. As soon as she learned that Stump, a 10-year-old Sussex spaniel, was this year's winner, she painted him into the piece as spectators and the media watched.

"It was insane," Biddle said. "I was a little overwhelmed by all the attention."

Biddle was born in Minnesota and went to high school in Tulsa before graduating from the Art Institute of Dallas in 1987. After a career in textile design, she turned her eye to fine art.

"I didn't really have a focus or a theme, so I started with a landscape," Biddle said.

Soon she was incorporating chic women into the pieces, almost always with their backs to the viewer.

"There really wasn't a rhyme or reason to it, but it sort of left a mystery," Biddle said. "It kind of became that people could really relate to them better."

Biddle said the pieces allow her to imagine herself in these enchanting scenes. Her recent successes could spur the need for a family trip to get more inspiration, Biddle said.

"It's part of the job, right?"

Online: www.trishbiddle.com

Gallery Night The Westlake Academy Foundation's fundraiser will be 7-11 p.m. Friday at the Marriott Solana hotel, 5 Village Circle in Westlake. Tickets cost \$65 and can be purchased by contacting Angie Gofredo at agofredo@westlakefoundation.com or calling 817-490-5722. Auction items will include a painting by Trish Biddle and a signed guitar from the Jonas Brothers and a private tour of the new Dallas Cowboys stadium.

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Trish Biddle,
on her turned-away ladies

AMAN BATHEJA, 817-685-3932

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Trish Biddle paints in her home studio in Roanoke on Wednesday. She is doing a painting for a Westlake Academy fundraiser that she won't finish until just before it is auctioned. STAR-TELEGRAM/RODGER MALLISON

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