

# RANACHE

LIVING WITH

**DATE NIGHT**  
Dreamy fashion  
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**CONGA TIME**  
Mansfield Cares hosts  
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LOVERS ONLY**  
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others pour on charm

## FIELD OF DREAMS

Rosie Moncrief says  
Super Bowl brings star  
power to Fort Worth

**CHOCOLATE TRAIL**  
Cocoa treats  
in Cowtown

February 2011

An Advertising Supplement of the Star-Telegram

# Editor's note

## Box of chocolates

### You're holding a sweet issue.

First, we have a delicious story about a beloved topic, especially in February: chocolate. **Celestina Blok** found where to get the cocoa bean locally – in all its forms – in her feature story on all things chocolate.

Next **Cynthia Wahl** rounded up a guide to her favorite wine bars in North Texas and offers tips on the best noshes and libations.

Meanwhile, **Susan Huston** gets readers ready for Valentine's Day with tips for picking out the perfect date-night attire.

Then in time for Super Bowl XLV, we have a story on decorating around your big-screen TV.

Speaking of the Super Bowl, our cover showcases our February Luminary, **Rosie Moncrief**. A member of both the bid committee that clinched the deal to bring the game to North Texas and the Host Committee involved with planning, she has worked around the clock for months along with other team members to make sure Cowtown offers the world a warm welcome come Feb. 6.

If you're still caught up in sports when the big game is over, you may want to plan your next vacation around your favorite pastime. Check out **Celestina Blok's** travel story for the sports fanatic.

Or if you just want an easy escape, for the armchair traveler, **Rick Kelsey** has a profile of Westlake artist **Trish Biddle** who paints beautiful people in beautiful places.

Finally, **Karla Uecker** shares with readers some novel ways to get a jump on Chinese New Year in this Year of the Rabbit.

*Julie Thibodeaux*  
Living with Panache Editor



Courtesy of See's Candies.

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*Living With Panache* is a monthly publication of the *Star-Telegram* produced by the advertising and marketing departments.

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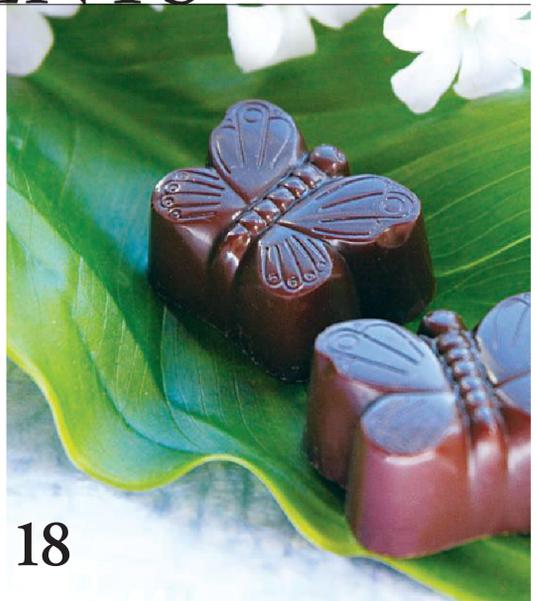
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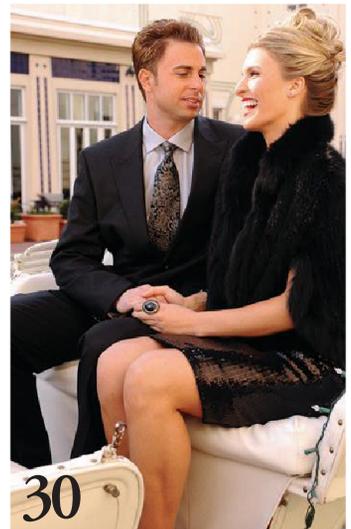
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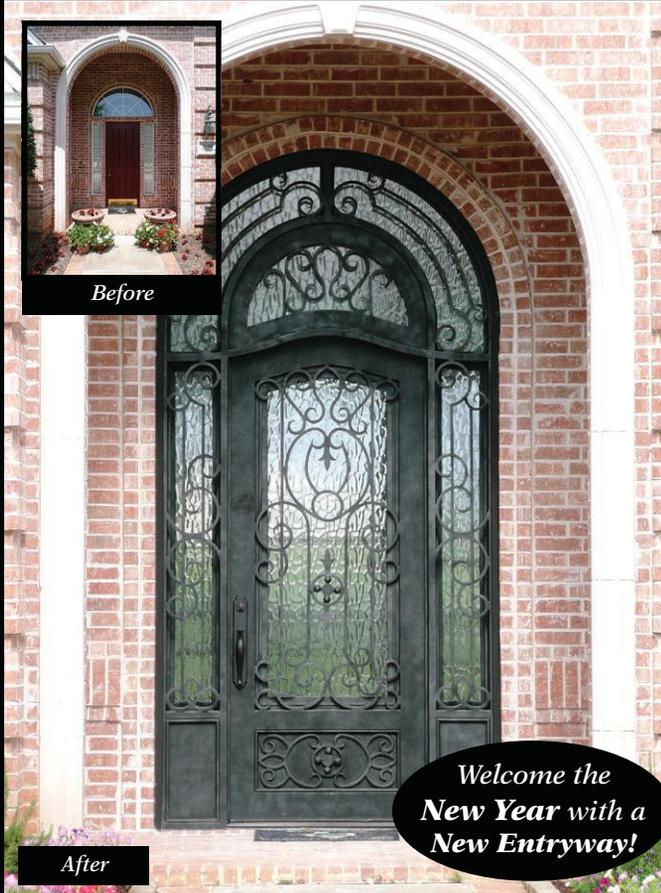
### On the Cover

Our February Luminary Rosie Moncrief at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. Photo by Steve Edmonds.



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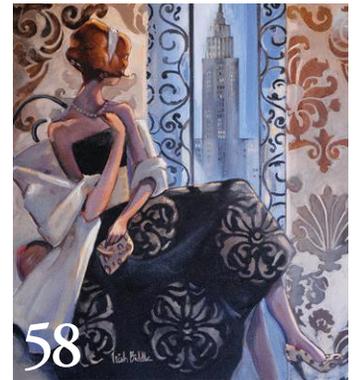
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# Painted ladies

*Westlake artist paints glamorous women in all the best places.*

By Rick Kelsey

People sometimes ask Trish Biddle if she knows how to paint faces.

That's because many of her paintings feature the backs of people, or obscure their faces, as they gaze at a Paris skyline, drive a car through Cannes or walk along a New York City street.

Biddle laughs, answers affirmatively about painting faces and explains that she intentionally hides them in her current work.

"It's so you can imagine yourself into the painting better. The whole idea of doing a painting, for me, is sort of an escape, putting myself into it," she said.

Which Biddle does a lot. She has painted professionally or, as she describes it, "doing what I



Trish Biddle in her home studio with her painting titled *Freedom*. Photos by Steve Edmonds.



New York



Eiffel Tower

love to do and making money at the same time," for seven years.

But she didn't start out as a painter. After graduating in 1987 from the Dallas Institute of Art, she worked for seven years in the fashion industry illustrating fashion boards for buyers as well as designing textiles, which included both drawing and painting. But she enjoyed the painting most of all and decided to devote more time to that.

Using old family photos that she found in her grandmother's attic, Biddle began painting rural scenes from the 1930s and 1940s,

such as people farming or posing alongside old Model Ts and a crop duster plane.

As she kept painting, her husband, Bryan, tried to find her a publisher and sent images to a lot of companies. Then in 2002, Canadian Art Prints contacted her for landscapes. So the couple spent a month driving around in Europe and getting references and inspiration. Biddle painted a landscape series which did well.

One year later, she saw the movie *Chicago*, loved the fashions and hair styles and incorporated that into her work.

"Nobody is doing this! You're filling a niche!" my publisher said. And the paintings did really well. They asked me if I would do a theme with women's backs, like a lady on a chaise lounge. And I just kept doing that," Biddle said.

Called "Glamorous Women in Fabulous Places," the series features elegant and fashionably dressed women at the Kentucky Derby, Westminster Dog Show, Venice, the beach, in boats or other places and settings with their backs to you or their faces hidden by hats or something else.

The series has brought Biddle a lot of attention and work like the official art and artist for the 2008 Kentucky Derby, the 2009 Del Mar Thoroughbred Racing Club and the 2009 and 2010 Westminster Dog Show. *Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria outbid everyone for one painting in a charity auction.

"My fashion background is now in play with these paintings. I am putting textiles and patterns into the dresses and things, like oversized ball gowns or patterned

wallpaper in the background. It's added another dimension. I've had a good response to it," she said.

Which is what Biddle hopes for when she exhibits at a manufacturer's licensing show in the spring. During her fashion industry career, it thrilled her to have her pattern designs on clothing in stores. As a painter, she's had her artwork licensed for greeting cards, tapestries and plates, and then she saw her work featured on 2008 Kentucky Derby souvenirs. So now she'd like to have her paintings appear on more products.

"Because of my background in fashion and how I like design, I would like to see my images on a line of handbags or tote bags or other things. I think that would be the next level."

*For more information about Trish Biddle's artwork and other products, visit [trishbiddle.com](http://trishbiddle.com) and [zazzle.com/trishbiddle](http://zazzle.com/trishbiddle).*

# Touchdown time

*For Rosie Moncrief, it's been a great ride to Super Bowl.*

By Rick Kelsey

## Maybe, just maybe

Rosie Moncrief will have a chance to catch her breath, relax and take a break on Feb. 7, the day *after* the Super Bowl.

Since the idea to get the championship game for the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington started four years ago, Moncrief has walked, talked and thought Super Bowl, Super Bowl and more Super Bowl.

"I have been working seven days a week for as long as I can

for football but a lot of other functions and activities as well. And since that time, she has helped Fort Worth get ready for many different things.

Like the Taste of the NFL, a food and wine event on the eve of the game, which has restaurant stations featuring celebrity chefs and football players from each NFL city, live entertainment and silent auctions with proceeds benefiting food banks.

Or the Super Sunday Morning Hope Walk, in which walkers from across the nation will join

*"There is lots to see and do, not just the Super Bowl."*

remember," Moncrief said with a laugh. "It's a combination of meetings, it's planning, it's strategizing, it's circling back to make sure every i is dotted and every t is crossed."

She has done that from the beginning as she worked on the bid committee to get the event for the new stadium. And when it came time to make the presentation to the NFL owners in 2007, she was one of five people from North Texas to attend that meeting.

"After I left Nashville and returned on that very happy flight, victorious and very excited about a getting a Super Bowl, the gravity of all this started to sink in," she recalled.

Moncrief realized that even though the game was more than three years away, planning needed to start immediately because not only do you need to prepare

students from the Fort Worth Independent School District to raise funds for the school district and Cook Children's Medical Center.

And the ESPN coverage of the Super Bowl which has TV, radio, Internet and other related coverage, along with local stations WFAA-TV and KTVT-TV, broadcasting live from Sundance Square in downtown Fort Worth.

Super Bowl XLV giving the area a lot of national exposure and publicity and providing many entertainment venues for the local residents is one reason Moncrief has worked so hard.

"There is lots to see and do, not just the Super Bowl. So if you can't afford to get a ticket to the game, go experience something else," she said, citing the Taste of the NFL and the Super Sunday Morning Hope Walk as opportu-



Among the Super Bowl-related events, Rosie Moncrief is gearing up for the Taste of the NFL, which benefits the Tarrant Area Food Bank. Photo by Steve Edmonds.

nities to mingle with NFL greats.

"Then walk over and watch ESPN live and see all of these talents that you see on TV every day. It truly is an exciting time for all of North Texas," Moncrief said.

And for that, she is so grateful for everyone involved and emphasizes that she is one of many who has done Super Bowl-related work.

"This has been a team effort all the way," she said, describing her hardworking colleagues as a Dream Team that includes numerous Fort Worth notables as well as local sports celebrities.

And the work will continue, even on Super Bowl Sunday.

Although Moncrief enjoys football, as she grew up watching four older brothers playing the sport and she has Super Bowl tickets, she and her husband, Mayor Mike Moncrief, may not get much time for watching the game.

"The entire week of the Super Bowl, Mike and I will make countless stops to welcome people to our city and game day will be no different. We will be downtown at 7 o'clock on Super Bowl morning as we prepare for the Super Sunday Hope Walk," she said.

Hence, she'll have to wait after game day to relax.

"Finally!" she said with a laugh.