

Feast of Little Italy *Featured Artists:* Jennifer Chaparro & Al Pisano

by Carol Saunders • Photography by Alicia Donelan



Almost a decade ago, the Feast of Little Italy was created as a vision to honor the contributions that great Italians have given the world through music, food, tradition and art.

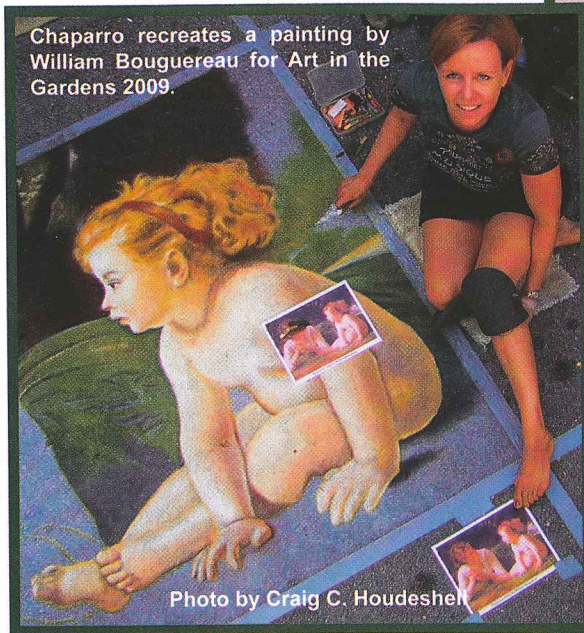
That vision is celebrated today when the ninth annual Feast of Little Italy, presented by Ed Morse Honda, returns November 4, 5 and 6 to Abacoa Center in Jupiter.

Among the long list of crowd-pleasing activities offered during the three-day celebration, the Feast will highlight outstanding Italian-style art by two specially selected artists. Spectators will watch Jennifer Chaparro's street

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Artist Al Pisano (right) with Feast of Little Italy President & Co-Founder Jerry Somma (left) and Vice President & Co-Founder Bill Fagnano



Chaparro recreates a painting by William Bouguereau for Art in the Gardens 2009.

Photo by Craig C. Houdeshel



Jennifer Chaparro of Amazing Street Painting leaves her mark on Abacoa Town Center with a rendering of the logo for the Feast of Little Italy.

Continued from page 29

painting come to life before their eyes, while the dimensional carved and sculpted pieces by Al Pisano will dazzle the beholder.

For further information regarding this year's Feast of Little Italy, visit www.feastoflittleitaly.com.

Jennifer Nichols Chaparro has taken the ancient art form of street painting and turned it into a lucrative living that takes her around the country and even to Europe.

"This summer I've been commissioned to participate in street painting fairs in Denver, CO, Dayton, OH, Buffalo, WY, and even a small town outside of Dublin, Ireland," said Chaparro. "I've already started getting dates for next summer and do my craft nonstop here during the season."

Born in St. Joseph, MI, Chaparro, 49, also works part time as a graphics designer for the Town of Jupiter. She holds a BA in design from the University of California, and in addition to chalk art, she works in pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic, gouache, ceramics and fiber.

The North Palm Beach resident has two daughters, Mercedes, 21, and Carmen, 16, who frequently assist her. Their collaboration began at the 2004 Street Painting Festival in Lake Worth, where they began pursuing the use of soft pastel chalk on pavement or concrete surfaces as an art form.

"That is the largest street painting event in the United States," Chaparro said, "attracting more than 100,000 visitors each year."

In events like this, she and her daughters have actually completed pieces as large as 10' by 10', usually depicting women and children.

"In the Feast of Little Italy, I'll be located on the street near the fountain, working *live* on my piece for two-and-a-half days," Chaparro said, hinting that she'll most likely be recreating "the Madonna from an Antonio Correggio painting."

Chaparro's work shows a unique talent for capturing faces and expressions. She says street painting is as much about the performance and creation of the piece before its viewers' eyes as it is about the art itself.

"I do a lot of advance planning," Chaparro said. "For something really big, I'll do a template on the computer, transfer it to large pieces of paper and fill in with chalk. For others, I'll just do grids to lay out my painting."

"The biggest challenge I face is the weather. I'm always working against the weather and hate to not finish a piece because of it."

See her work at www.amazingstreetpainting.com.