



A True Master of the Living Canvas

BY J.M. MARTIN

the Cincinnati publishing house, F + W Publications, and she immediately saw the value in showcasing Curtis's work and bringing it to the public.

Your Home, A Living Canvas (ISBN 1-58180-783-X) hit the bookshelves in 2007. It is a richly illustrated tome with a menagerie of before-and-after photos, all guided by Curtis's entertaining narrative. The book records his home's transformation from demolition to brilliant, beautiful renovation.

"The old corner house seemed sad," were Curtis's musings upon his initial encounter with the place that would soon become his canvas. "Standing so proud and yet in obvious need of loving care."

In spite of its disuse, "there was a spirit to the house that welcomed me," Curtis wrote. "I wanted to restore its glory and make it my home, a place where everyone would feel that welcoming spirit."

In the pages of *Your Home, A Living Canvas*, Curtis takes us from those first musings through the entire process. Not only does the book showcase the life he breathes into the old, neglected 1880s abode, Curtis enlightens readers on how to do it themselves. You can learn his amazing yet simple faux-finish techniques, learn how to create custom murals, learn how to glaze, how to marble, how to properly distress...Curtis reveals every last detail of his methods and materials from the plaster to the paint to the size of the brush.

Regina Garay made *Your Home* her book choice of the month for January 2008 and said in her online review (www.garayartisans.com) about the book's cover: "How delicious is this room? And it's the guest room! Could you imagine being someone's guest and walking into this space? I would hug the person and say 'thank you!' Obviously many other people agree with me since it is the cover shot. I really would just want to curl up with a nice cup of tea, catch up on some reading or a fantastic crossword puzzle and idle the afternoon away nested within this Chinese garden landscape."

Curtis conveys a warm welcome in the book's acknowledgements. "The most rewarding aspect of [the] project has been sharing this adventure with family, friends and community—and now with you!"

Within the 144 pages of the oversized, hardcover publication you can see the man's dedication to his art, so do yourself a favor and hunt down a copy of *Your Home, A Living Canvas* (available wherever books are sold, as well as online) and marvel at the creative techniques and decorative masterpieces throughout.

To read and view more about Curtis Heuser, go to his Web site www.livingmurals.com.



Artwork by C.Heuser



Curtis L. Heuser took his Fine Arts degree from Northern Kentucky University and parlayed it into one of the Midwest's premier decorative artists. Rather than apply paint to a mere easel, Curtis has fully embraced the philosophy of decorative painting. He started his own business in 1987 and, with a deep-seated artistic predilection, followed his personal Muse, from elaborate mural commissions to pioneering inspiring, expansive works of art throughout an entire home—his own—using the Newport, KY, renovation project as his "living canvas."

Luckily for all of us, Curtis documented his developments. Though featured in various home tour publications for his work on the home, the crowning achievement was winning Newport's "Excellence in Historic Preservation Award" in 2005. A few years prior to that, however, Curtis met Clare Finney, art director for North Light Books, at one of his various yard sales as he was filtering out all the junk that had been piled to the rafters in the old East Row Historic District home (the neglected house was sold along with its contents). Clare represented

