



Buchetto's mural will offer a positive message.

Shiny, happy painting

Louis Buchetto's new mural will be inspiring

By Nicki Escudero

When people walk through Louis Buchetto's doors of his downtown Flagstaff store, they are bombarded by bright colors, simplistic designs and inspirational quotes all over his paintings.

People just can't help but smile.

Buchetto, who has owned My Art Place for a year and a half, says his vivid art, which also includes masks and totem poles, is a result of his desire to put more of himself in his work.

"It became clear I needed to steer my art career toward my ideals in trying to lift spirits and do something that would be uplifting and fun for people," Buchetto says.

Buchetto is in the process of painting a 55-by-14 foot mural downtown on the wall of McNabb Wil Fine Jewelry Studio on 18 N. Leroux. The mural will be of "When you see only the dark, know the light will soon return" what Buchetto says seems to be his most popular work.

Francesca Moribella, owner of Wild Heart Gallery in Sedona, carries much of Buchetto's work in her gallery, and she says the painting chosen for the mural is a great decision.

"Louis' work is inspiring. Its vibrant colors and poetic phrase touches people of all ages," Moribella says.

"His artwork is magical. The phrase, 'When you see only the dark, know the light will soon return' is one which we should remind ourselves of everyday. It is comforting."

Buchetto says the phrases used in his work are not only to inspire the viewer but also to aid him in getting rid of negativity.

"I'm pretty good at dissecting whatever's dark about my personality and finding out what the real positive direction is in the darkness," Buchetto says. "I don't like staying in the dark. It bothers me."

Buchetto says not-so-happy feelings are normal, but it is important to work through them.

"I pay real close attention to what the source of my emotions are," Bu-

chetto says. "When I really go back and look at all the layers that lead to the source, anger is kind of a healthy thing done in an unhealthy way. So, once I get to the core of what I want, then I try to be more efficient and use my energy wisely."

Buchetto says he has always wanted to do a mural. He says he envisions himself going around the country and doing major projects and art shows while staying based in Flagstaff. He says he hopes the completion of this mural, which should be done within a few weeks, will help him in fulfilling his goals of showing his art outside of Flagstaff.

Various indoor places such as health clubs and restaurants have murals painted by Buchetto, but he has never done one outdoors or of this size.

"It's definitely more exciting because people don't have to walk through doors to see it," Buchetto says.

Shanto Begay, a fellow Flagstaff painter, says he is happy art is being painted for all of Flagstaff to see.

"A good mural is important because it gives Flagstaff an identity," Begay says. "Flagstaff's sole identity can't be the mountains or the historic buildings. I think a mural downtown will really give Flagstaff a sense of creative space to an outside visitor or even to us (as residents) as a way of experiencing color and art in Flagstaff."

Various northern Arizona artists are helping Buchetto paint the mural, and he also invites members of the community to participate. He says he hopes this project benefits the people and spirit of Flagstaff.

"I hope people get a sense of fun or uplifting from the mural," Buchetto says. "There is a deeper message in the mural. That is with the word 'know.' It's about how we have the power to make the positive come back. It's almost about how unbelievably creative we are."

For more information on how to get involved with the mural, call Louis Buchetto at 214-7144. ■