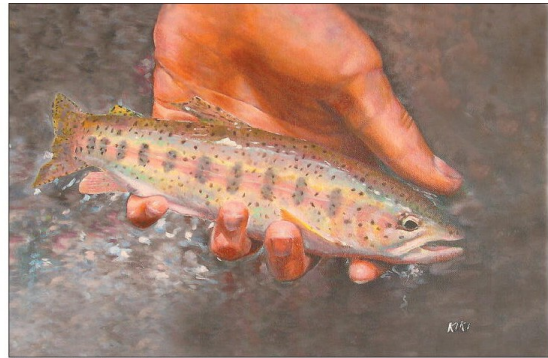




"Josh at Stony Pass"



"White Water Creek Rainbow"

The great outdoors

Kiki Suggs' acrylics bring out the beauty of nature

By JOEL COURTNEY
The Las Cruces Bulletin

Kiki Suggs is the third generation of Southwestern artists in her family, joining a grand tradition that dates back to her grandmother, who served as president of the El Paso Arts Association for five years in the '60s.

Suggs, who was born in El Paso, spent much of her youth in the Kingston area until her family moved to Las Cruces when she was 14 years old.

She said that she began painting only 10 years ago on the advice of her sister, but had always been creative, drawing, making furniture and the like.

According to Suggs, her whole family is creative but tends to lean more towards crafts than the traditional fine arts, with her mother weaving pine needle baskets and her brother turning wood.

Most of Suggs work is done in acrylic, although she does some work with oils. She said she loves the look of oils, but shies away from it because she can't achieve the detail she enjoys from acrylics.

Suggs said that although she does some painting en plein, or outdoors, she prefers to work from photographs. When she feels the desire to paint, Suggs said she digs through the family's photographs.

"I love to take photos. There are some scenes (in my photographs) that I absolutely love and want to paint," she said.

She added that she tries to enhance the colors from her photographs to make her paintings more resemble the scene as she remembers seeing it firsthand, rather than how it is captured on film.

The outdoors is the most common environment for Suggs' photographs. She has been hiking and backpack-

Although her work with Classic New Mexico Homes may keep Suggs from focusing on her painting, it still allows her to exercise her creativity. In addition to managing the business, Suggs serves as the artistic half of the company with her husband.

In addition to picking all of the colors for each home they build, she hunts down unique stained-glass light fixtures, paints tea staining on walls and creates hand-painted details for each home.

"We're not afraid of color," she said. "We honestly think of houses as works of art and try to create something that owners never get tired of looking at."

To see more of Kiki Suggs' work, contact Classic New Mexico Homes at 525-9530.

“For some reason I seem to gravitate towards water.”

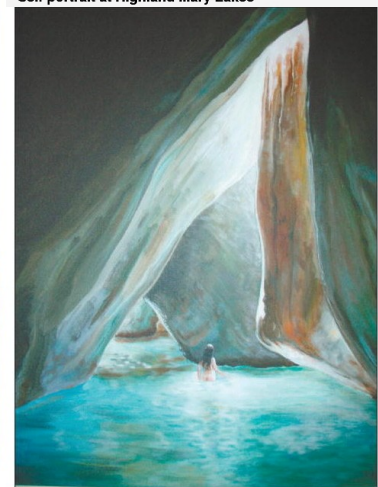
KIKI SUGGS,
Artist



"Self portrait at Highland Mary Lakes"



Kiki Suggs stands by her favorite of her paintings, "White Water Creek."



"Water"