



"He's really supported and encouraged me. He comes home and comments on the way the changing sunlight plays on my paints. He even helps me deliver pieces."

"Some ladies had come here from Houma and bought nearly every painting I had. Gilbert and I loaded up his red pickup truck and delivered the paintings," she fondly remembers. "He didn't mind the mess of my work when

*Clockwise, from left Sarah uses this formal living room right off the home's entry foyer to display many of her paintings. Patrons can pick and choose from works on display, where they get a sense of how the paintings show in a real house setting. Blue and gold tones predominate in this painting that hangs over a push bed.*

*Illustrating the versatility of Sarah's contemporary works is Taos Sunset, shown in the living room over this antique French buffet and among a collection of traditional blue-and-white porcelain.*

I used to paint in the kitchen, and he bathes Wesley and reads to him if I'm in the middle of a painting session."

She calls her husband her "greatest fan."

"Gilbert is steadfast and easy going," she says. "He's helped me to become all I can be. He constantly reassures me, and he says from time to

time, 'I think you're doing great.'"

According to Sarah, she spends about a week and a half to two weeks each month painting. "I'm working more now than usual because of the upcoming shows," she says.

Sarah explains she must have 15 to 20 pieces of art to display at each show, with approximately eight of them being large. "That's a lot," she sighs. Her paintings come in a variety of standard sizes, but she notes that the popular 38-inch by 48-inch size is "perfect over a fireplace or behind a sofa." Her largest is typically 48 inches by 60 inches.

Higher ceilings being the trend in homes lately, Sarah says she tends to sell a lot of larger size paintings. She has also noted that trends in colors vary from city to city.

Sarah says shades of red used to be popular wall colors in Baton Rouge, and although people now use more neutral backdrops, they like to keep a touch of that drama in the house. For that reason, she thinks her paintings with dark red have sold well locally.

In New Orleans, however, paintings with creamy neutral colors have been more appealing.

Sarah and Gilbert bought a house in Country Club of Louisiana more than three years ago, primarily for the golf course view, she says. The home's wall of windows and doors overlooks the backyard, adding to inspiration for her work.

Among several works on display, the Griffith's home features Sarah's paintings "Elmwood Drive," "Whales Tails," "Taos Sunset," "Sunset Serenade," and "Crossing the Waters."

While she previously worked on the kitchen counter tops, Sarah says late this summer she and Gilbert cleaned out the 20-foot by 40-foot bonus room over their garage and converted it into a studio.

"It's great," she says. "Now my painting sessions don't have to interfere with my family activities."

Sarah's artwork will be featured in two upcoming international art expos—one in San Francisco in November and the other in New York in March. ■

