



Calendar project raising money for people in Ethiopia Local artist creates paintings that reach the soul

BY MARIO TONEGUZZI, CALGARY HERALD OCTOBER 31, 2012

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A painting called Bezuneh Niguse by artist Paul Van Ginkel for his HOPEthiopia project.

Photograph by: Supplied , Calgary Herald

CALGARY — A good piece of art has a way of reaching your soul.

For many years now, I've known local artist Paul Van Ginkel and I have been touched by the depth of his paintings.

He has a unique way of capturing the essence of reality.

Whether it's in Western-themed work such as cowboys, natives and horses to



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flamboyant flamenco dancers, Van Ginkel's creations have gained a popular following here in the city and elsewhere.

Now the artist, through the assistance of Painted Pony Petroleum in Calgary, has embarked on a charity calendar project to raise money for HOPEthiopia.

On its website, the charity says it is committed to the restoration of both the people and the land of Ethiopia.

"HOPEthiopia will provide care and love to orphaned children and homeless retired pastors in the nation of Ethiopia," says the organization. "HOPEthiopia emphasizes the educational, physical, social, and spiritual needs of the individuals who call it 'home'. It is the vision of HOPEthiopia to enable the people living therein to grow into confident and fulfilled Christian leaders, contributing to the well-being of Ethiopia.

"The mission of HOPEthiopia is twofold: firstly, to raise Ethiopian children into citizens with exceptional moral standards and strength of character; and secondly, to restore the values of purpose and dignity to the lives of Ethiopia's homeless pastors."

Van Ginkel's connection to this project comes through his connection with Painted Pony Petroleum.

A big collector of his work is Pat Ward, president and chief executive at Painted Pony Petroleum.

Naturally, painted horses are of big interest.

Last year, through the company, a calendar was created using Van Ginkel's art.

The calendar was given to clients but it also raised money for charity.

For HOPEthiopia.

Once, you had to be
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Daily Telegraph, UK
Saturday, August 04,
2012

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Painted Pony sponsored the 2012 calendar, paying for the costs of it, and all sales of the calendar went to the charity. People paid by donation.

Last year's calendar raised \$80,000.

"Since the average African makes about \$2 a day you can imagine how far this kind of money goes," says Van Ginkel.

"Inspired by the success of the 2012 calendar we decided to do it again this year. What I proposed was instead of reproducing existing paintings of mine in the calendar like last year, I would paint 12 portraits of Ethiopians."

Van Ginkel went through HOPEthiopia's collection of photos from the region and selected 12 individuals to paint.

"Since this would become a series of paintings, we wanted to have a good variety including men, women, kids and from serious to smiling. Another difference this year is that all 12 original paintings are for sale and I'm donating a percentage to HOPEthiopia," he says.

Painted Pony is hosting a calendar launch on November 8 at a company event where the calendars will be available and the paintings on display. The paintings can be viewed at: www.paulvanginkel.com/exhibitions.html.

For more information about the calendar and the charity, visit www.hopethiopia.com or www.paintedpony.ca.

"We'd like to think we'll do even better than last year for a number reasons primarily because the second time out is more successful with anything," adds Van Ginkel.

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A painting called Tulu Bulti by artist Paul Van Ginkel for his HOPEthiopia project.

Photograph by: Supplied, Calgary Herald



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A painting called Regassa Degaga by artist Paul Van Ginkel for his HOPEthiopia project.

Photograph by: Supplied, Calgary Herald



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A painting called Young Boy by artist Paul Van Ginkel for his HOPethiopia project.

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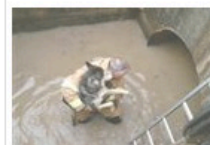
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