



Photos by John Rowland/jrowland@theadvertiser.com

Artist Thad Morgan's canvas is unfinished as he leads an art workshop at The Well on Saturday afternoon.

BRUSH STROKES

Local artist teaches the power of painting

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The soft whisper of a paintbrush against a canvas was one of the only sounds Saturday afternoon inside The Well shelter, a service of the Acadiana Outreach Center.

About six participants took part in an art workshop led by local artist Thad Morgan, who showed those involved how to express their inner thoughts and creativity through the power of painting.

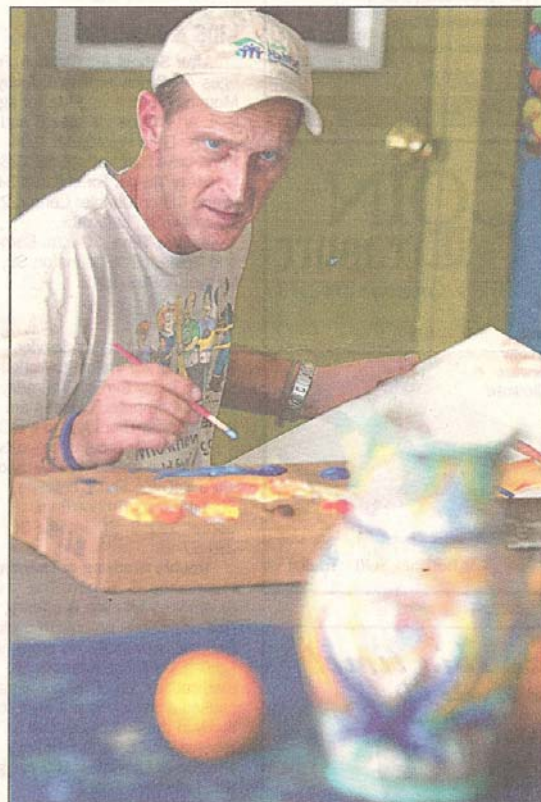
"It's a lot about sitting and

focusing and not thinking about anything except what is in front of you," Morgan said. "It's all about their specific interpretations."

The inspiration for the participants' painting came from quotes from essayist and journalist Albert Camus, a Nobel Prize winner.

"With integrity, there is no need for rules ... live life ruled not by restrictions but by freedoms, not by judgment but by inspiration, not by comparison but by truth," the quote read.

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Mike Domingue takes a close look at the pitcher he is painting during an art workshop at The Well on Saturday afternoon.



Artist Thad Morgan puts brush to canvas as he leads an art workshop at The Well on Saturday afternoon.



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Artist Thad Morgan leads an art workshop at The Well on Sunday afternoon. Here Rachel Pareti shows her painting to Sheena Buruzs. Finished products will be on display in the Outreach Center's gallery during the Oct. 13 ArtWalk.

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— Rachel Pareti

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Brush

Morgan said the end result doesn't have to be pretty, simply something that reflects a person's own feelings.

“It's about what they have accomplished,” Morgan said.

Rachel Pareti, one of the workshop's participants, said she was thrilled to get involved in painting again after first studying it in high school.

“It's great therapy for me,” Pareti said. “Painting is my happy place. All that clutter in my head just goes away. I feel better after I paint, regardless of how it turns out.”

Want to help?

Any artist wanting to conduct a similar workshop can contact the **Acadiana Outreach Center at 237-7618.**

Sheena Buruzs, life enrichment coordinator for the Outreach Center, said this weekend was the first time a professional artist had conducted such a workshop.

“This is something really special for us,” Buruzs said. “It's all about how they perceive that image they're working from. It's not right or wrong.”

Buruzs said the workshop participants' finished products will be on display in the Outreach Center's gallery during the Oct. 13 ArtWalk.