

Entrepreneur ascends heights

Veteran wins Texas' SBA Small Business top award16



Artistic briefs

Courtroom to canvas, litigator's pop art turns heads10



Women entrepreneurs

Tips to navigate the funding landscape20

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THE
MOTLEY
FOOL

Financial and
investing tips

PAGE 19



Artistic briefs: From courtroom to canvas, litigator's pop art turns heads

Greg Westfall has a bit of a double life. A Partner with Cantey Hanger, LLP, he is a litigator handling civil and criminal cases. He has also been a productive artist the last 10 years.

Nights and weekends he most likely can be found in his art studio. Westfall says at times it feels like two full-time jobs. "I'm in my studio in the morning before I go to the office and then in the evening after I leave the office. I do art all weekend unless I need to prepare for trial. I have three commissions going right now."

Westfall works with acrylics, generally in the Pop Art genre. He creates works that are almost always very bright and colorful, and he says he wants to establish an emotional connection with the viewer. "I use colors and choose my subjects to intentionally communicate at an emotional level. I have been trying cases to juries for 30 years and have done a lot of work and teaching in the area of connecting at an emotional level. I constantly borrow this experience in connection with my art."

Greg's work with images, though, goes back to when he got his first good camera at 13 years old. "I read book after book and learned all about light and composition and everything else around photography." When cameras went digital, Westfall dove into digital editing in Photoshop and ultimately worked with experimental forms of photography, trying to create something that could hang on a wall.

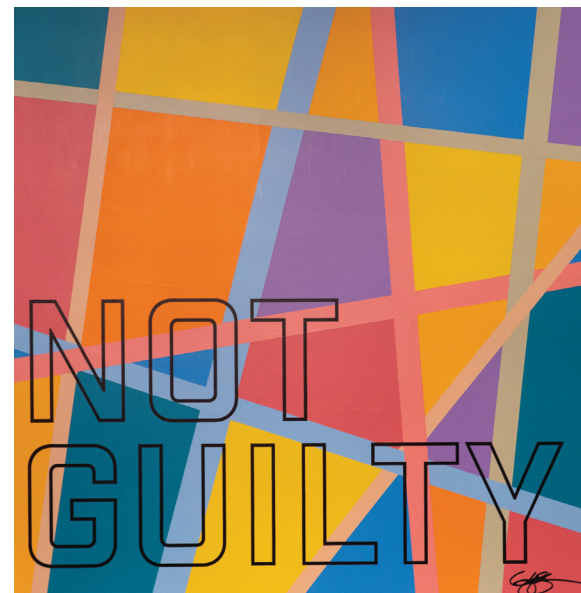
Westfall found that printing photographs did not really convey what he wanted as an end result. Research for an alternative brought him to artist

Bonny Lhotka, who had invented a process for transferring images to all kinds of surfaces. Greg adapted this process to resemble screen printing, which was used by several of the pop artists in the 60's and 70's.

Using this process, Westfall has created pieces up to 60" x 60" and 36" x 72". "I could create a piece probably double these sizes," Greg says. "The process is very scalable. Problem with a piece like that is getting it from Point A to Point B."

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Most of his customers are attorneys, but a growing number are non-attorneys through his use of social media. "I have created quite a few portraits of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, several portraits of Clarence Darrow, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali and Woody Guthrie for attorney and non-attorney clients. I create abstract images bearing the words 'Not Guilty,' which are very meaningful to criminal defense lawyers. I have



done a bunch of pieces featuring Native Americans and western themes, and many pieces featuring animals. I have had quite a few clients that give me an image and ask that I create a picture."

As a general rule, Westfall says a 36" x 36" piece will be between \$2,500 and \$3,500. A 48" x 48" would be \$3,500 to \$7,500, and a 60" x 60" would be \$5,000 to \$10,000. Materials used are acrylic paint on either a wood panel or canvas.

