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Division 10 is canvas for Mechanic Jason Stange.



Division 10 Mechanic Jason Stange Makes Art His Life

- Self-taught artist makes art out of anything he can get his hands on

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Jan. 11, 2006) When it came to ringing in the holiday season for the maintenance crew at Gateway Division 10 this past year, 32-year-old Mechanic Jason Stange had it covered.

Using tempura paints on the windows, he painted snow, trees, and caricatures of each of his co-workers.

They were all there: from the muscle men to the golf cart drivers. Assistant Maintenance Manager Jim Fulkerson was a maniacal Santa Claus. Top it all off with a stressed-out Rudolph driving a bus, and you have a very Metro Christmas.

For Stange, a 12-year Metro employee, art has always been a first love. He's been drawing since he was a kid growing up in Hacienda Heights.

Scenes from Division 10 Gallery

He made art with anything that he could get his hands on. At first, it was just pencils, but



then he moved on to bigger projects, such as acrylic and oil painting in high school.

'For the fun of it'

"I took classes for the fun of it," Stange said. "For the most part, it was self-taught."

After high school, he found a new canvas to work with. He turned his attentions to airbrushing cars.

"At first I didn't like it," he said. But, eventually, it grew on him.



Stange started doing airbrushing and pinstriping, which is a decorative line down the side of a car. It used to be done with a brush and paint, but is now done more often with vinyl tape. He says it's a semi-lost art form.

He has also experimented with different types of art, such as designing tattoos and sculptures with metal work.



Since airbrushing on cars is one of his passions, Division 10 had Stange restore a mule tractor, a vehicle used to move buses around the yard.

The full treatment

He gave it the full treatment: he painted the tractor bright red, shaped all the metal work, and created all the painted details, including very realistic looking flames.



Stange's dad, Michael, has worked for Metro for 30 years, and currently works out of Non-Revenue Division 4. When Jason was attending Rio Hondo College, unsure of what he wanted to do, his father

suggested applying to Metro. He's been working for the agency ever since.

Around the same time, he met his wife, Nancy, in a hair salon. She was a hair assistant, and he was getting a haircut.

They connected on the fact that she was also an artist, except that

her focus was portraits. She currently attends the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. They are expecting a child in the spring.

In the future, Stange hopes to open a shop to cater to hot rods and motorcycles, such as those on the television show "American Chopper." Meanwhile, he just tries to produce art out of anything he can get his hands on.

"If you can get creative with it, I try to do it," he said.

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