

Artist still painting the 'wildest thing in Dallas'

□ *What began as a challenge has become the auction's single biggest item*

By **HEATHER B. JONES**
Dallas Post Staff

The original idea was to find the wildest thing in Dallas to paint, and the Back Mountain Library Auction fit the description.

"It's such a challenge to paint real things that are moving," said Back Mountain artist Sue Hand, owner of Sue Hand's Imagery, Dallas. The challenge of trying to capture something as it is happening and constantly changing was the reason she set up her easel over 10 years ago at the auction.

"This is my form of bungee jumping," she said with the excitement already building for this year in her voice.

What started out as an artistic experiment has turned into an auction tradition. This year's painting, "Celebrating 55 Years of Auctioning and Auction Bidding," will focus on

the people who make the auction such a huge success.

Sue is hoping for a good seat on the auction block to capture the faces of the crowd and the auctioneers this year. With a 22 inch by 30 inch sheet for the watercolor, she understands finding the perfect spot maybe a challenge in itself. Her idea for this year is to incorporate photos of faces into the watercolor.

Sue admits the idea she takes to the auction may not be what appears as the finished work. "Painting is a whole process, for the whole weekend," she said.

The weekend takes every ounce out of Sue. She will spend approximately 40 hours painting. Her husband, Joe, will spend another 20 to 40 hours of work matting and framing the archival quality artwork.

Along with creating a painting at the auction, Sue also donates other works of art from her shop.

Sue's original auction watercolors have been some of the top bid getters in recent years. This year's artwork will go to the auction block on Sunday night and is sure to be a crowd pleaser.



Sue Hand loves to work outdoors, but the auction, with its changing scenes, presents a challenge.

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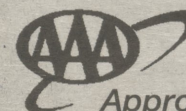


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