

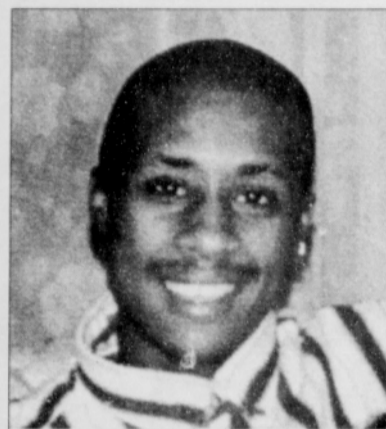


# The Focus on Art

## A Talented Young Artist's Perspective on Prominent Black Celebrities

BY COLLEEN LORE PARKER

Our readers may have noticed the subtle inclusion of some of Edward Martin's artwork in our last issue. Edward, a versatile young African-American family man who currently

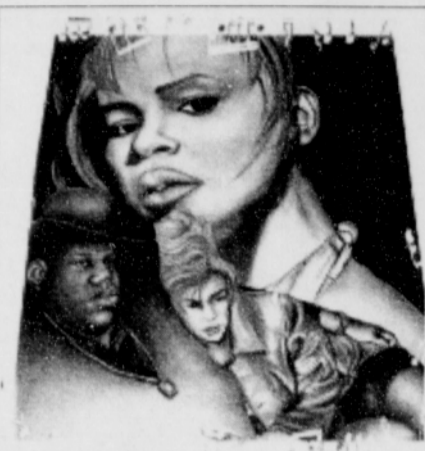


Urban Artist Edward Derell Martin

resides in Illinois, is an extremely talented artist, specializing in African-

American and celebrity paintings.

Edward's efforts to continue producing beautiful, bold and ironic symbolisms represented in his paintings have been somewhat thwarted, however, when the compressor in his airbrush broke. In spite of this obstacle, he was very interested in producing a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during the month of January 2001, around the time of Dr. King's birthday. He was motivated enough to spend tedious hours trying to repair his compressor, and he did use it in it's malfunctioning state.



Faith and Biggie

himself once again that artistic flow that had been toyed with as much as his painting tools had been. The portrait was produced, and he was not as satisfied as he had anticipated. Nevertheless, he pressed onward and completed the portrait; and afterwards he began to work on a portrait of his two little girls. In this issue, we

are providing samples of his artwork. We are hoping to showcase further samples of his artwork in future issues of The Portland Observer. At the present time, Edwards mother Mary has been battling cancer, and is coming out on the winning side. She



Michael Jordan

is a businesswoman, owns her own beauty salon, and is an active member of her church in Rock Island, Illinois. She is a true giver, providing continuous emotional and spiritual

support to her only son, Edward, and his little family. Mary is a fine role model, and never speaks ill of anyone. Those who support Edward in his artistic endeavors are currently working on the construction of a Web page featuring his work. As a struggling artist, he is open to accepting assignments, based on commission. We feel that his work is remarkable. Some of his work is featured in this issue of The Portland Observer. Reader's comments or questions are welcomed, and can be addressed to R. Parker, Creative Director, The Portland Observer. His wife, Dana, and their two daughters, Jasmin and Mercedes, are very happy to see Daddy coming home every evening after his day in the rat race. Why? Because he not only manages his own retail video store, bringing home special movies for the little ones each weekend, but he was also voted 2<sup>nd</sup> best of five



OJ and Shapiro

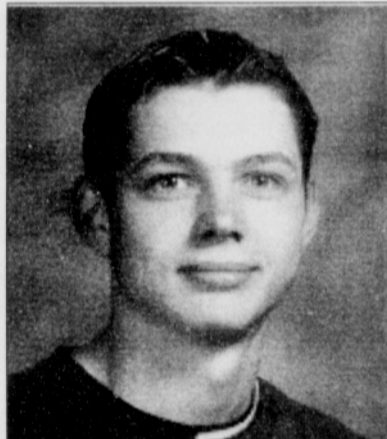
entrants for the best father contest sponsored by Parents Magazine in 1998. His wife, a writer/poet, submitted a letter to the magazine listing his fine qualities as a husband and father. The magazine sent staff to the Martin home, taking pictures and interviewing his wife in preparation for their Fathers Day edition.

## Young Artist Garners Celebrity Attention

Portland Artist's Works Exclusive to Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery

Continuing their tradition of supporting the local up-and-coming artist, Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery

is currently featuring the unique landscape oil paintings of 17-year-old artist, Dmitry Leontyuk. Leontyuk, an immigrant of the Ukraine, is quickly earning recognition in the Northwest among art



17-year old artist, Dmitry Leontyuk.

collectors and celebrities including Richard and Jeramie Dreyfus.

The third child in a family of nine boys, was born on May 20, 1983 in the Ukraine.

Leontyuk's family moved to Oregon in 1993, following relatives who had discovered a better life in America. Initially, Leontyuk experienced difficulty mastering the English language and his grades reflected his struggle.

But, with the aid of two English as a Second Language (ESL)



An oil painting by Dmitry Leontyuk called "Prelude."

courses, his language skills improved. However, it was not until Leontyuk developed a close relationship with Keith Biggs, a teacher at Reynolds Middle School, that he took interest in painting.

Biggs encouraged Leontyuk, by supplying him with his first collection of paints, brushes, assorted art supplies and a canvas. His natural talent was instantly apparent, and his language classes evolved into art lessons. His first customers were his teachers who purchased his acrylics and oil paintings as quickly as he completed them.

Leontyuk prefers painting the outdoors, and living in Oregon provides the perfect, nature-filled environment. "I love watching the clouds, their shapes and different

colors at different times of the day or year," he said.

"I just sit and think how shadows fall differently across the ground as the sun moves across the sky." "In fact," he continued "I'm always amazed at new possibilities and new ways to use color, and find myself anxious to complete each painting so that I can create another one...and another one."

Yoshida's Fine Gallery, located at 411 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy in Troutdale has a year-round display of Leontyuk's artwork. Their gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sundays from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call Kristina McMorris at 503/872-8485.



### Edgewater Restaurant and Lounge

Relax in our riverfront Restaurant and sample our Northwestern fare, or dance the night away to live entertainment in the Edgewater Lounge. Either way you're sure to have a relaxing and memorable time at the Red Lion Hotel.



Restaurant	6:00 AM-10:00 PM
Lounge	Opens at 4:00 PM
Dancing (Fri-Sun)	9:30 PM-1:30 AM

Situated on the Willamette River, across the street from the Memorial Coliseum and Rose Garden Arena. "Blazer Headquarters" For all home games.

Red Lion Hotel Coliseum

1225 N Thunderbird Way  
Tel (503) 235-8311

### AFTER FIRE GRAND OPENING LDP GRAPHIC DESIGN



Tue-Fri 10 am-4 pm  
Sat-Mon and after 4:30 by appointment only

Corner of Russell and MLK above the Albina Coffee House

- Receive 15% off any order of \$30 or more And
- Receive an additional 10% off any order placed within 30 days

Walk-in always welcome, 10% discount to all Non-profit organizations, OAME & LiTip Member discounts. Call for more information or current location

333 NE Russell, Suite 201  
Portland, OR 97212

Tel: 503-493-3391

Lauri@ldpgraphicdesign.com

Expiration Date: 03/23/01

## PORTLAND TUB & TAN

Come and experience Portland's premiere Hot Tubbing By-The-Hour. We feature private Hot Tubs complete with shower, towels, and music. 80' x Stark • 256-4TAN

\$3 off Hot Tubbing with this ad (expires March 21, 2001)

- Tanning
- Tubbing
- Hair Care
- Massage

503-261-1180



## Music Lessons at Ethos, Inc.

Portland's Nonprofit Music Center

Scholarships based on need! March 16th Deadline!

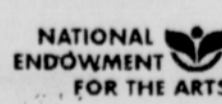
Register at ethos-inc.com or call 503-241-8824 for a brochure



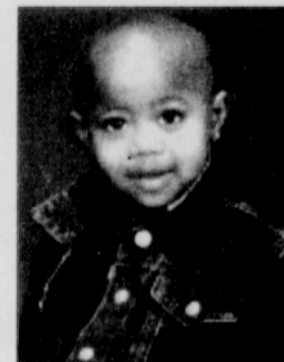
©1999 Sean Casey



The Wyss Foundation  
Hoover Family Foundation  
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust  
Lorene Sails Higgins Charitable Trust  
Roosevelt's PGE-Enron Community 101



## Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday



Jahaud Lamondre Washington  
I Love You, Dad