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MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS

Hermiston artist Michelle Hopper uses a wide range of colors in her paintings. Hopper recently started doing more fine-art pieces after recovering from a serious stint of anorexia.



Hermiston artist Michelle Hopper works on a painting, called 'The Drive' Monday afternoon at her home studio in Hermiston. Hopper uses painting as a means to cope with anorexia and bipolar disorder.



Hermiston artist Michelle Hopper is currently working on a painting called 'The Drive,' which shows the freedom one experiences when out riding and hearing cattle.



Hermiston artist Michelle Hopper uses a variety of colors and brushes to create colorful works of art.

HOPPER:

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ing on four to five different pieces, which she has sold or commissioned for people in the region.

"The Gathering," which is 2 feet by 7 feet, will hang in the office of TM Counseling in Pendleton with another one of her paintings called "Soul Warrior."

"Soul Warrior" also features a horse looking directly out of the canvas and was created with a variety of bright colors.

Hopper also recently sold a painting of a Native American and is currently working on a painting of a horse on a head board for a client.

"It has really taken off," she said of interest in her painting.

Hopper said one of the reasons people feel so strongly about her art is that they can tell that a lot of emotion went into creating each piece.

"For some people, it made them cry," she said. "People say it is very unique and powerful. They like all the colors. They can tell that a lot of emotion went into painting it."

Hopper said she would

eventually like her paintings to be displayed in galleries so she can reach an even larger audience. She already plans to attend and be featured in an art show in Ellensburg, Washington, this year, where she will hopefully sell more of her work.

"I'd like for it to support me," she said. "I want to get into some other art shows and for it to be self-sustain-

ing." Hopper said items from her clothing line have sold all over the United States and world. Now, she said, she hopes that will extend to her fine-art paintings.

People who wish to purchase or commission a piece can find Hopper on Facebook by searching "Binding Ties Designs" or by searching "Michelle Hopper Artist." She said

she regularly posts pictures of the pieces she is creating.

For those looking for inexpensive copies of her works, Hopper also has prints available of current and past paintings she has created.

"People can just call me, and I can send them one," she said.

Hopper said prints cost anywhere from \$45 to \$150 for her larger works.

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