

# NEIGHBOURS



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NEIGHBOURS THE ARTS

## Calgary artist loves the blues

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NEIGHBOURS

American black history has an unlikely champion in the city. Local artist Earl Klatzel chronicles musicians from the blues era and black history in the southern United States in his oil and acrylic paintings. It's a fusion of passions for the 49-year-old, who is, in fact, not black, and was born and raised in Calgary.

"I say I'm white but my soul is black," he says. "I put my two passions together — music and art."

The art of this "music fanatic," who has amassed a collection of 1,300 records since he was 13, will be featured in the Calgary Home & Garden Show from Feb. 23 to 26 at the Roundup Centre and Corral at Stampede Park (tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for seniors). February is also Black History Month.

Klatzel works on his art from his home studio in Windsor Park, and refers to his collection as "Bluesworks by Earl" ([www.earlklatzel.com](http://www.earlklatzel.com)).

In the early 1990s, Klatzel studied advertising art for three years at the Alberta College of Art & Design, but left to take up fine art and show his drawings in galleries. He then taught him-



Lorraine Hjalte, Calgary Herald

Earl Klatzel is a local artist specializing in blues portraits.

self to paint in oils and acrylics.

"I work from old photographs, mainly from the Depression era and I mix and match photos, and bring them to life," Klatzel says.

His work has been featured in the Murungo Gallery in Edmonton and will be on display at an Inglewood gallery this year.

For the past five years, Klatzel's art has been shown at Bob's Create-a-frame & Gallery in Strathcona. The gallery now sells his giclees.

His wife Tammy Cantelon, whom he

met through mutual friends in high school, made it possible for him to work on his fine art.

"I couldn't do it without my wife's help," he says. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be painting."

Although a bit biased, Cantelon is convinced of Klatzel's talent in capturing the soul of blues music.

"When you have the music playing, you can almost feel the figures moving," she says.

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