



About The Artist

FULTON FITS WITH LOCAL JOIE DE VIVRE

YOU MAY HAVE admired his work on walls all over Acadiana, in Baton Rouge or in New Orleans. You may have seen him sketching at area festivals, and if you made your way over, chances are he chatted you up like one of the locals. Adrian Fulton certainly gets around but his presence on the local art scene is relatively new.

A native of Philadelphia, Fulton earned a degree from the Philadelphia Printing School of Advertising. But for 20 years, art took a backseat to a technical career and military service. Now, Fulton's focus has returned to his roots. A one-time newspaper illustrator and muralist in Italy – whose works that linger there include a portrait of Mother Teresa – Fulton is back on track ... this time in Louisiana.

One might wonder how Fulton – a Philadelphia boy – came to be an Acadiana fixture. Ask and he'll tell you he came in search of a wife. He didn't fall in love with a local woman after all. He fell in love with Louisiana. So, here's what he did:

married his pen pal and moved her here. Now, for Fulton, our community serves as an inspiration, an artspace, a market, a playground and, lucky for us, his home.

008: *When did you first realize your talent for art?*

AF: I recall being encouraged at an early age. My parents decided to send me to art school after I used different things in the pantry as colors for my paintings. It is important to teach young minds what they can do before the world teaches them what they can't do.

008: *Any instructors or mentors you'd describe as particularly inspiring?*

AF: My father was an artist but never had the opportunity to explore his potential. Our relationship was a bit of a paradox: He would tell me to choose another occupation because artists starve, yet he and my mother would drive me to art class every Saturday.

008: *Describe what compels you to create art.*

AF: Art is a passion for me that stems from the roots of communication. The old adage of a picture being worth a thousand words rings so true to me ... I can convey meaning without out fear of something getting lost in translation. And, I have always enjoyed creating illustrations. An effective illustration can do a lot to de-fog the mind.

008: *Your Web site references a "20-year-long rocky affair in technical career fields." How was it rocky, and why did you keep at it for so long?*

AF: I do not regret my pursuit in trying to master the left-brain world. There just never seemed to be enough kindred spirits for me. This is not a condemnation of technocrats but more of a realization that I was a misfit in that realm. Useful information seemed to trickle ever so slowly, which always frustrated me ... Politics takes precedence over productivity.

As I've transitioned into my 40s, I have come to accept both

my own limitations and the limitations of society ... You can't go faster than traffic!

008: *I understand you served in the U.S. Air Force and also the National Guard. Did it influence you as an artist?*

AF: The military was a very positive influence in my life ... a chance to travel around the world and meet with a variety of people. My ability to do quick portraits and caricatures always was an ice breaker.

008: *What are your plans for the future?*

AF: I would someday like to open a school that promotes better understanding among people – one in which there are built-in incentives to communicate and cooperate effectively. I'd like to link the school with real-world business so the association is tangible not just abstract theory.

And, in my dream world I would like to have enough resources to resume being a pilot and have my own helicopter company.

BY AGENT BILLIE LANDRY

FIND FULTON'S WORK

See art in action! Fulton often can be found at festivals and events, where his live caricature and scene sketching skills draw crowds. Catch him at the American Cancer Society's Reflections of Hope: An Evening of Art & Wine Gala in the Lafayette Natural History Museum & Plan-

etarium on Aug. 23.

His works hang in area galleries, museums and restaurants, including the Jackson Art Gallery, Cité des Arts, Artmosphere, Acadian Village, the Gueydan Museum and the Duchamp Opera House. His hilarious Craw-Ville cartoons – featuring Acadiana's signature critters with

distinctively human personality traits – grace the walls of Randol's Restaurant. And, he's excited about working in a new medium: film. Look forward to his first film project this fall.

Visit www.laughyet-la.us to view a complete list of venues and his own online gallery.