

# Art Skills

by Beatrice Valencia  
Photography by Linda Elliott

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX TENNIS BALLS AND PAINT? ARTISTIC MAGIC, OF COURSE! OR, IF YOU WANT TO GO BY THE PROPER NAME, PAINT DAY 2007. ZINA GARRISON TENNIS ACADEMY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HOUSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PUT TOGETHER A DAY OF POLLOCK MEETS AGASSI. ON JULY 18 HOUSTON ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE KELLY GALE AMEN PROVIDED GIANT CANVASES FOR CHILDREN TO UNLEASH THEIR ARTISTIC TENDENCIES AT LEE LECLEAR TENNIS CENTER, WHERE THEY LAUNCHED PAINT-SOAKED TENNIS BALLS ONTO GIANT CANVASES.

AFTER THE EVENT, AMEN CREATED HIS WELL-KNOWN FURNITURE OUT OF THE CANVASES. THE FURNITURE WILL BE SOLD IN NOVEMBER AT THE ZINA GARRISON GALA. THE ZINA GARRISON ALL COURT TENNIS ACADEMY TEACHES LIFE SKILLS, PROMOTES COMMUNITY SERVICE, PROVIDES POSITIVE ROLE MODELS WHILE STRENGTHENING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOUSTON'S YOUTH THROUGH THE SPORT OF TENNIS. HOUSTON SPORTS LEGEND ZINA GARRISON FOUNDED THE EPONYMOUS NON-PROFIT IN 1993 TO GIVE BACK TO HER COMMUNITY. AND THROUGH LOCAL COLLABORATIONS, EVENTS LIKE PAINT DAY GIVE BACK TO THE FOUNDATION.

NOT ONES TO BE LEFT OUT OF THE FUN, GALLERIES M2 AND BERING & JAMES INVITED 12 ARTISTS FROM EACH GALLERY TO TAKE A 2'X2' STRIP OF PAINT-COVERED CANVAS TO CREATE ANYTHING THAT THEY WANT. THEIR CREATIONS WILL BE ON DISPLAY WITH A DOUBLE GALLERY OPENING AT EACH LOCATION ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, FROM 6 TO 10PM. FORTY PERCENT OF THE EVENING'S PROCEEDS FROM BOTH OPENINGS WILL BENEFIT THE ZINA GARRISON TENNIS ACADEMY.

THIS IS A CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN, ART AND THE FUN OF GETTING TOGETHER TO CREATE ART WHILE HELPING OTHERS!

