

# Poppy Festival Artist's Work Blooms

Georgetown's Red Poppy Festival signals the arrival of spring. Perky, prolific red poppies, the distinctive flowers have been a part of Georgetown's heritage for over seventy years and have earned our town the title "Red Poppy Capital of Texas."

Every year, artists put paint to canvas and compete to be named the Red Poppy Festival's featured artist. The winning artist's work is displayed at the visitor's center, is raffled off and a lucky winner gets to take the prized painting home. However, the painting continues to enjoy an extended hour of fame as it graces hundreds of official festival posters, banners, and t-shirts.

Meet Patricia Lyle, this year's Red Poppy Festival featured artist with her painting Red Poppies!

Patricia, along with several of her art students, entered the contest after classmates decided to paint red poppies. She gleaned inspiration for her painting from several red poppy photos she had taken around Georgetown over the past couple of years. Turned up toward the sun, many of the poppies she'd capture were "yearning for the light," she says. She spent four sessions creat-

ing the painting that contrasts warm orange and hot red poppy petals with cool blue and green background leaves and stems. "And over all appears the light—the glorious light—that the poppies, and all of us, reach for throughout our lives," explains Patricia, for whom painting is always that glorious experience.

Patricia's artistic interests began at the age of 12 when she received her first set of paints, big brushes and a wooden palette. From that time, Patricia claims she "was hooked" on painting and has been painting ever since. She encourages budding artists to get started by doing lots of drawing. "Observe and make marks, many marks, and then find paint and paint away!" Art classes, workshops, reading about art, and visiting art galleries and museums also spark creativity. "Studying art opens our eyes to wonders all around us," Patricia says.

Patricia captures the wonders around her by using dramatic color when she wants to emphasize the subject or focus of the

painting. Some of her other works have a quieter tone, but she says,

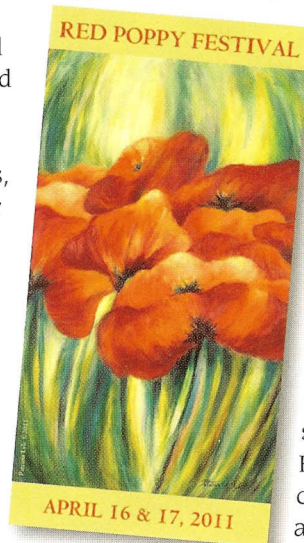
"Pushing warm and cool colors in a painting can have quite an impact." While she primarily paints in oils, she does use other mediums such as acrylic, watercolor, porcelain paint, and specialty materials such as gold leaf and inks.

Patricia has two art studios at her Round Rock home, where she conducts classes for adults and children on Wednesdays, Thursdays

and Fridays. She also teaches classes and workshops in the area and enjoys "making art with other people."

You can view Patricia's artwork in several galleries and art venues in Georgetown, Round Rock and Austin, as well as on her Web site, [www.PatriciaLyle.com](http://www.PatriciaLyle.com). Catch Patricia at the Red Poppy Festival, April 16-17, where she will be signing posters. She welcomes everyone to stop by to say "hello." ■

BY  
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For more information on the Red Poppy Festival, visit <http://poppy.georgetown.org>

