

## Open Arms –Valentine (2015)

By Walt Wright

This Valentine painting was a donation to The Arts Depot in Abingdon, Virginia. Each year in February an art sale comprised of donated 6x6 paintings are offered to the public for just \$36 each. The theme is “Art from the Heart”. This annual fund raiser attracts large crowds to the Arts Depot, often forming a line before the doors open. Who can blame them... an original work of art for just \$36, in this age of inflation?! This is my first time contributing to the fund raiser and I decided to create two works that can be sold individually, or as a set. The first one of this set is titled, “Horse Play” and features a colorful seahorse. These are my first Valentine themed works. Oh, for the love of art! I really wanted to keep these for myself...but, I did promise to donate them.

Since my early youth I have been a fan of National Geographic and today I am still very much in love with this educational magazine and television network. My first and very informative introduction of the octopus came from NatGeo. This creature is perhaps the strangest on the planet. Its ability to change color and form make it an extraordinary shape shifter. Like love it is always changing and adapting. With its many arms how could you not think of hugs? Sure, love can be scary but it’s worth the risk when you find your true love waiting with open arms.

