



SHADES OF RED

By Kristin Cushen

To meet Linda Harrison, you might think that her nickname stems from her red hair. And you would be partially correct. But, Linda “Red” Harrison is quick to explain that her nickname has more to do with the influence of the color red. It’s “strength, passion and spirit” have defined her and her expression of herself in all that she does.

Born in the small farm community of White Castle, Louisiana, Red is the fourth child of seven. Both of her parents worked outside the home, so Red helped by cooking and minding the house and younger siblings. Red has fond memories of art instruction classes; her parents paid for her to take in a nearby Antebellum home during the summers where she learned to crochet and sew. Her parents and paternal grandmother were all amateur artists. Red loved “watching her

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dad draw with charcoals or her mom create ceramics. They encouraged her creativity through summer art classes, designing clothes, studying music, and cooking – traditional Louisiana soulful cooking.” Red received an academic scholarship to the University of Central Florida, earning a bachelor’s degree in Marketing. She then attended the Florida Institute of Technology, where she received her MBA. Her first job was working at the Kennedy Space Center. *She spent the next 25 years “developing solutions in healthcare, logistics, information technology and,*

finally, forming her own consulting company in Denver, Colorado.” It was in Denver that Red’s artistic spark was reignited.

Red shares that nature is a powerful force for her. She says that nature and music play two integral parts of her life and her art. It was on a beautiful, crisp Spring day, hiking in Denver’s foothills that Red found herself moved and inspired to create.

When she got back home, she went through drawers and cabinets looking for markers, sponges, brushes, tools, and any type of paints that she could gather, spray paint, and house paints included. Red pulled a piece of art from her wall and covered the painting with her own creation. That piece now hangs with pride of place in her entryway. Red says that the painting reminds her that “if you have a desire to create, then you should follow your passion without regard to the end game.”

Red and her husband, Greg, moved to the Alauqua neighborhood six years ago. They found the perfect home, with a casita out back that Red now uses as her studio. Red’s talent has brought her much





notoriety. Red won first place in "The Artist's Magazine" 30th annual art competition in the abstract /experimental category, published in their Jan/Feb 2013 edition. She has also won various other awards, including Finalist in Lifestyle Magazine Art Contest 2018 and 2017, Artavita, Art Fusion Galleries Artist of the Week, and Finalist in Artist's Magazine. You can find Red's art online at Strokes by Red on both Facebook and Instagram. In January of 2020, Red took the bold step of retiring her management consulting business to devote herself to her painting passion fully. Unlike many creative souls, Red is exceptionally organized and laughs about making lists of lists. She spends certain days in her home office learning how to share her art with a worldwide audience. Red writes a story about each piece of her artwork, and she researches, explores, and shares the ideas that come to her as she paints each canvas. She believes that art plays a significant role in our

allows my energy to evolve on the canvas." When asked about what Red likes to paint, she says, "I don't choose the content, it chooses me. I paint best when I let my hands do the talking".

Ever creative, Red signs all of her correspondence with the signature "Dare to Feel". It is obvious that this is a motto Red truly lives by.



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lives. Red feels that art speaks where there are no words, saying that art can "entertain, educate, provoke thought and elicit emotion", and "unlock profound human understanding". Greg, who has also recently retired, often plays DJ for Red and seems to know just what music she needs to hear as she paints in her studio. "The rhythm of music quiets my mind and