

Citytv

City TV News Feature
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News Anchor: After the break, we'll be taking a look at some beautiful art. We introduce you to an artist who paints while driving! (Commercial Break)



News Anchor: It hasn't been said very often that driving on the freeway brings out a person's artistic side, but that is exactly the case for one Calgarian. Judy Gabrielle has his story;

Reporter: His paintings capture a single moment in time, but it is the experience of an entire journey, and when Markowsky isn't riding the bus, he's creating art *while* driving on the freeway. Tell me how this concept started:

Markowsky: "It all began one day I was sitting in my car in traffic down in Los Angeles. I was coming back from the beach... I pulled out the notepad next to me and started doing some doodles of the road... I had trained myself to draw without looking at my hand."

Reporter: You've never caused an accident? No speeding tickets?

Markowsky: "No, I've had speeding tickets, but not while I've been making drawings!"

Reporter: Well he soon proved that his little chicken scratches were looking more and more like artistic landscape pieces.



Markowsky: "...I started making large paintings based on these drawings"

Reporter: And Markowsky went to various lengths to get his creative juices flowing...

Markowsky: "Eventually, I started getting people to drive me around. I did a project last year where I strapped myself to the roof of my car and we zipped through the California desert at a 120 km/h while I made paintings."

Reporter: What does your family think of all of this?

Markowsky: "Um, well my mother is, was a little bit concerned."

Reporter: But Markowsky isn't always putting himself in the verge of danger, he's also capturing a piece of history along the way.

Markowsky: "This piece is called the *Death of James Dean* and it is based on the last few hours of the famous movie star James Dean, who died in a really brutal car accident on his way to a car race south of San Francisco."

Reporter: Markowsky's art captures the chaos of life that happens in a split second and draws a familiar path that helps piece it all together. And his latest show, *The Driving Paintings: the California Coast and French Riviera*, can be seen at the Axis Contemporary Art Gallery until May 12th. I'm Judy Gabrielle.