

DENVER, COLO. Jill Soukup

In Denver, life is balanced for artist Jill Soukup. The city offers an expanding downtown framed in green valleys and mountain vistas. It's an ideal location for those who paint cityscapes with a need for nature's serenity.

Admitting to being a hermit, Soukup started this day with *Art-Talk* drinking lots of coffee and seeing her husband, Brent, off to the airport at 7 a.m. She then descended into her basement studio, complete with high ceilings and natural light, to med-



Three Dogs Bed by Jill Soukup

Then it's yoga, a shower and off to socialize at the Arts Student League on 200 Grant Street in the downtown area. "It's a great place to be connected with other artists," says Soukup. "They have groups that go out to do plein air painting. I go there to take a class from 6-9:30 p.m."

Collectors who want to see artists doing traditional work should definitely check out the League. It's also a great place to find realistic or impressionistic works, which are said to be a rarity in Denver.

Soukup points out that the abstract and modern markets are hot. There are only a few galleries that offer high-end traditional art. Most of these are located in the Golden Triangle Arts District (a triangular area marked off by Colfax Avenue, Speer Boulevard and Lincoln Street).

It's in this location that the city's First Fridays are held. Soukup says she gets out to them when the weather gets warmer. She also gets outside to paint with "other hermit painters."



Jill Soukup

itate before she started working. Today, she's putting the finishing touches on five paintings.

At 2 p.m., she checked her e-mails and did tasks like visiting Glaser Frames. She says, it's all a part of managing her art career.

Soukup says if you are coming to Denver, she recommends:

Places to Eat: A trendy club where artists hang out is Swimclub 32. You can also find artists at Stella's Coffee House or Sambucca Jazz Cafe.

Galleries to Visit: Abend Gallery, Gallery 1261 (located in Golden Triangle district) and Robischon Gallery.

Events: On Jun. 3, enjoy First Fridays art walk in the Golden Triangle Arts District from 5-9 p.m.

Watch For: Be sure to visit the small town of Morrison (a 10-minute drive from downtown, near the beautiful Red Rock Amphitheater). In the areas of Washington Park or the Platte River, one can find some of Denver's finest plein air painters doing their thing.

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June/July 2005