

Romantic

Entertain with Heart:
tips, recipes and more

CASUAL
ELEGANCE.
PERSONAL

HOMES



Got Romance?

Inspired ideas from this
year's Romantics

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Valentine's Day
Gift Guide

THE ROMANTICS

THE ANNUAL FEATURE SHOWCASES CREATIVE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THE ROMANTIC LIFE. YOU'LL FIND THEIR STORIES INTRIGUING AS WELL AS INSPIRING.





GREGG BUGALA

MURALIST/ARTIST • FENTON, MICHIGAN

AS AN ARTIST, I DON'T DARE TRY TO DEFINE myself or my artistic style because then I'll cease to embrace what hasn't yet been created. The word "artist" is more of a verb than a noun for me. My mother says being an artist is a lifestyle, which means I am compelled to live it out as a journey, not a destination.

However, I think the one defining characteristic of my life that's romantic is my need to make a meaningful connection to the past. Getting married to my sweetheart on Mackinac Island, a Victorian oasis in-between two of the Great Lakes, was the beginning of our great romance. We adopted three wonderful children, all of whom are artistic to some degree.

I discovered I have a love affair with *buon fresco*, the

ancient Italian painting technique used by high Renaissance artists in the 1500s, and now I feel connected to those great artists. I keep a journal, I pray to my creator, and I play my guitar—all of which is therapy for me. Life isn't always romantic, especially when I have to be away from family to do big mural commissions or when I have to be on the drawing board when I'd rather be painting.

The most original way I showed someone I loved them? I have a good friend whose Alaskan malamute dog died. My friend isn't married and has no children; the dog was his best friend for 14 years. I felt compelled to bless him by doing a portrait of his dog. That painting really touched him deeply.

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