



COOL ARTIST

Stroke of Genius



Abstract painter Brad Ellis has come a long way from exhibiting his artwork in old warehouses. Sometimes the best artists go most of their careers without success until late in their lives, but Ellis proves an exception. After moving to Texas in 1987, he settled in with a collaborative group of artists in Dallas' Deep Ellum neighborhood. Their makeshift warehouse shows paid off as galleries and private dealers lined up to represent Ellis, yet he manages to stay humble—which makes him that much cooler. "I'm primarily motivated by the work of other artists," remarks Ellis. "There is so much great work being created right now by artists all over the world in many different kinds of mediums so it's really an exciting time to be alive and to be making art."

Creative people find inspiration in a variety of muses. "I used to follow the Grateful Dead and saw about 80 shows from coast to coast," he recalls. It's no wonder then that his work incorporates an element of musicality. A harmonious balance of vibrant colors, lines, shapes, forms and textures makes his paintings foyer and museum ready. "My art philosophy is pretty simple," he insists. "Paint for paint's sake!" **SA**

PHOTO BY HARRISON EVANS