



The upcoming exhibit, "The Artist," includes photographs of artist Tim West, shown here with his piece "This World," by artist/photographer Diana Michelle Hausam.

indefinably

beautiful



Photographer and artist discover common ground in love for found objects.

By Angela E. Thomas • Photographs courtesy of Diana Michelle Hausam

Photographer Diana Michelle Hausam has an eye for the unusual and what others may find dark or mundane, she can capture and show its beauty.

So one might expect this full-time, professional artist to have a degree in art or a related field. Hausam, a Little Rock native, has a degree in Biology; however, a milestone birthday caused her to rethink her career path.

"When I turned 30, I realized I wasn't doing what I wanted to do. I started to pursue photography and now it's what I do ... all day, everyday," Hausam said. "I started out photographing nature as most photographers do, then I became interested in abandoned houses." She travels the streets and back roads of Arkansas and Missouri looking for "the most

bazaar things."

Three years ago, Hausam happened upon a property lined with a fence fashioned of old bicycles. She left a note for the owner asking to photograph the fence, which she described as "art in its purist form." The rest, as they say, is history. For three years, Hausam has photographed Tim West. West, a 72-year-old artist lives in Winslow, Ark., and has bachelors and masters degrees in fine arts from Southern Illinois University. His work was, from 1955 to 1986, accepted by various museums internationally, according to his artist statement.

Hausam describes West's works as "worn, weathered and torn," and West describes the work as an "obsession ... my work is created on impulse ... life, eternity and death become my work."

Hausam has captured West, her beloved abandoned houses and other images in black and white. Her exhibit, "The Artist," includes photographs of West, his artwork and found objects, will be on display Sept. 19 through Oct. 19 at M2 Gallery. An opening reception will be held Sept. 25, and an artist talk will be held Oct. 9.

For more information, log onto dianamichellefineart.com or call M2 Gallery at (501) 225-6257. ■