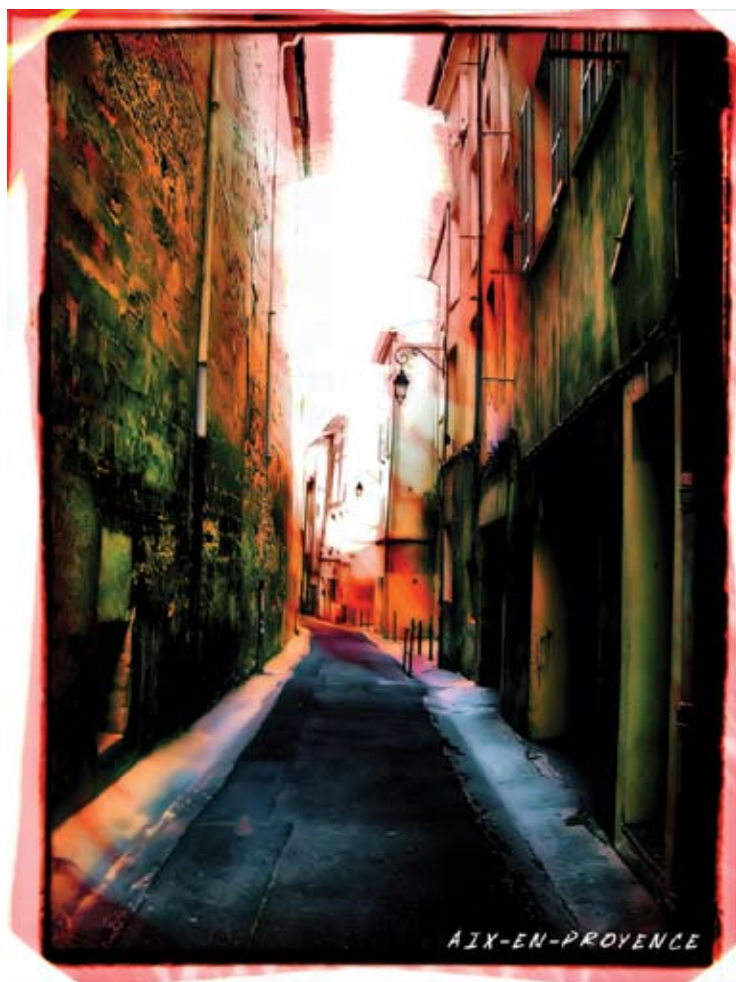


the. Artist's Touch



Searcy Living's own Garrett Johnson recently exhibited works at the Searcy Art Gallery. His work was inspired from traveling to France. Although learning about European art and culture was enlightening, he states that "traveling abroad made me more aware of America, and more importantly, who I am as an American."



"The American Dream is so deeply ingrained in our minds that I forget that not everyone lives in America and has that mind-set. This street in the south of France showed me the absence of the American dream with no lawns, no SUV's, no picket fences. I think we all too often look at the pursuit of happiness in material things and maybe forget what it really means to have joy." --Garrett Johnson



This art piece is a rug detailing a street lamp in Paris. "There are many references to Greek and Egyptian themes in Paris, even in the smallest places," Garrett elaborates. "Something we may forget as hard-working Americans is to also take just as much effort in appreciating life and the beauty in it."





Photographing a Paris sunset was a highlight of his trip. "Seeing the sun set in a place totally foreign to me was spiritual because it made me realize how big God is and how vast his love can reach out. When you see churches that are more than a thousand years old, it humbles you, but also makes you realize how young our nation is and how America's original goals are still a new work in progress."



Artist Howard Johnson and wife Sandra Johnson pose for a photo at the recent art exhibit at the Black House in Searcy. Howard and his son, Garrett, both displayed works from travels to France. Howard displayed numerous paintings, sculpture and even stained glass. Howard says his goal in art is to create a "visual diary" and "incorporate the viewer directly into the creative processes."

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