

# Exhibit showcases eclectic work of Ronald Amie

By *Lés Pierres Streater*  
*Sentinel-Voice*

An art exhibition by the late Ronald Terry Amie was unveiled in the Community Gallery at the West Las Vegas Arts Center.

The exhibition, which is being presented by the Cultural Affairs Division of the city of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services, opened on Sept. 6.

Amie, who was born and grew up in Las Vegas, was proficient in several mediums, including oil, chalk, pen, pencil, water, airbrush and computer graphics.

This was a bittersweet moment for the family of Amie as they gathered to reminisce about the life of a loved one and shared memories that touched each of them. Such memories will continue forever through Amie's accomplishments and art legacy.

Those who shared memories were the late artist's wife, Kathy, and his mother, Ruby Amie Pilot.

"I hope people would appreciate and love his art as much as he did," Kathy said. "I also encourage our young people to dream, that anything is possible, and to pursue different career paths. A lot of our young people don't even know that a career in graphic arts exists. That is why my husband would return to junior high schools, high schools and juvenile homes to give seminars on his art and show kids what's out there!"

"He was a great motivator to our children, both he and I worked hard to achieve the things we needed to do," Kathy continued. "Our children saw that their father had a very strong work ethic. He would spend hours doing his paintings. It would be nothing for him to spend eight to 12 hours on a painting. He encouraged the kids to enjoy the arts."

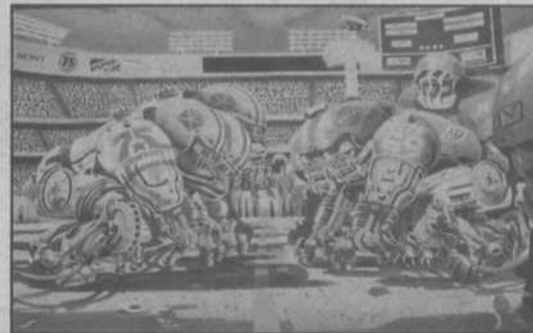
Trying times have been experienced without him.

"It has been a difficult and painful year, but with my faith I've managed to get through," Kathy said. "I look around and see this as a celebration of life because my husband lives on through his art. I want the community to really enjoy his work because this is where he started. I think that it's fitting that we have come full circle back here for this one-year retrospective of his death."

The exhibit, originally scheduled for one weekend,



A sample of paintings:  
(Top left) Deco  
L'oiseux,  
(top right) Calafia,  
(bottom left) Cosmic Companion,  
(below middle) Football 2200-1987 Cowboys/Jets and Galactic Rangers.



will be on display through Oct. 30. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Amie began drawing at an early age. He loved to draw whenever he had a spare moment.

He won awards for his work, beginning in elementary school and continued throughout his life. He attended Kit Carson Elementary School and graduated from Clark High School. He studied art history at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Graphic Design.

While living in Las Vegas, Amie worked for the city and created a series labeled "City Works." They are depictions of different departments and the jobs performed by people in those departments.

He created a comic strip called "Black Spear" that was featured weekly in the old Voice newspaper. He also designed and published a book called "The McWilliams Townsite," which depicts history of West Las Vegas.

Amie combined the dark environments of Rembrandt

with the bright colors of the 1970's pop art. He became well known for his artistic talents. His work is displayed in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. He worked as a designer and illustrator in Los Angeles.

Pilot spoke about the life of her son.

"Since he was three years old, I knew him to get into any corner with any piece of paper or whatever he found in sight and start to draw," she said. "This was his life and he was committed to his art. He was an early riser and we would get up to find him on the floor with a pad drawing or sketching. He had so much to accomplish and it seemed like he was always in a hurry to finish the things that he set out to do."

Amie's children, Ronald, Scott and Angel, and his siblings, Mike, Gwen and Herbert, also expressed their feelings about the opening and the life of Ron Amie. He leaves behind an impressive collection of works and a rich life filled with family and friends.

The center is located at 947 West Lake Mead Blvd. For further information, call (702) 229-4800.

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A Film By Bob Rafelson

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