



Artist Cameron Cross (left) had a lot of work ahead of him when the giant Van Gogh was taken down last week, including sanding, repairing holes and fiberglass and repainting. Before any of that could be done, the painting had to be cut from the big easel (above).
Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



There were several holes in the canvass like this one that cross has had to repair. He has also sanded down and repair the screw holes and seams.

Van Gogh repairs continue

By Tom Betz

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Once the giant Van Gogh sunflower painting was on the ground Wednesday the repair, repainting process began with Canadian artist Cameron Cross.

On Thursday Cross washed the painting down to get the surface grime off and to give him a clear picture of what work needs to be done. He said the first thing was to clean out the screw holes and the seams so he could recover them with a filler compound.

He said he had to change the formula for the compound because the first batch hardened before he could get many of the screw holes covered. Cross got all of the screw holes cleaned and filled that day, but said it was getting hard in the afternoon sun's heat.

Friday morning he started earlier with sanding down the screw holes and getting started on the few areas of the painting that need fiberglass to repair cracks and a few holes.

Cross said about 15 people stopped by while he was working on Thursday with four cars from Texas, one from Arizona and a woman who walked up and said it was a great looking painting.

Cross asked where she was from and she said Canada. Being a Canadian, Cross asked where in Canada she was

from.

She said Manitoba.

Cross is from Manitoba and asked what city.

She said Winnipeg.

Cross is from Winnipeg, and asked where she lived in Winnipeg.

He said the woman turned out to live about four miles from Cross, and was a teacher in a different school district.

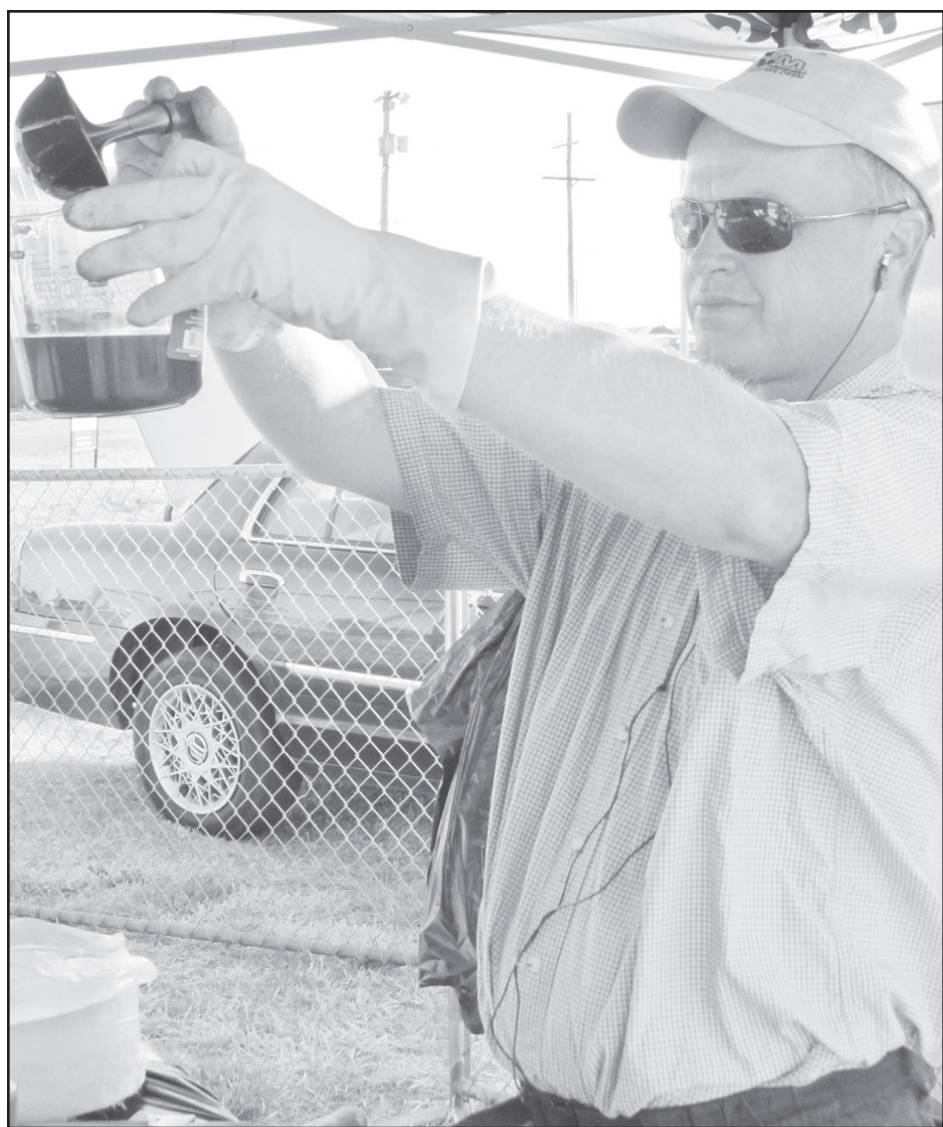
Cross said he expected to finish the sanding on Friday, and once his fiberglass test on the upper right corner of the painting was dry he would be ready to proceed with the other fiberglass repairs.

Once the repairs are done Cross will begin the repainting process, which he hopes to be able to complete within a week.

He said he has purchased a clear coat to be applied to the painting once the repainting is done to help protect the painting when it is put back up on the easel.

To help Cross a purple awning was erected where he can get out of the sun, and where he can keep his paints and other materials away from the direct sun.

The light that shines on the painting at night has been redirected to shine on the ground where the painting is being repaired. A fence has been set up to help protect the painting while Cross is doing his work.



Under his purple awning, Cross mixed the chemicals he needed for his filler formula, which allowed him to paint over the screw holes and seams.

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