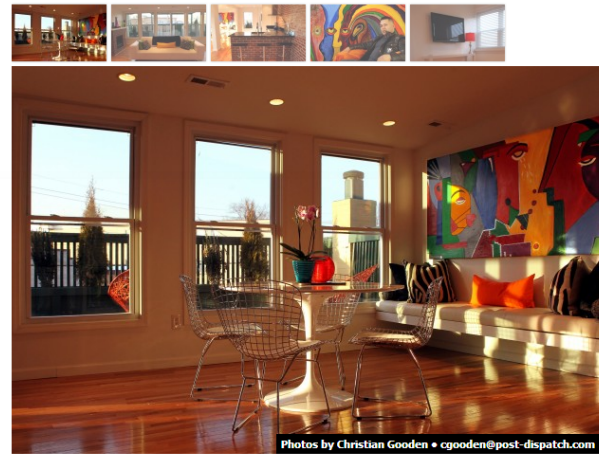


Garden Place SENIOR LIVING We Live Here... We Care Here... ROLLOVER TO LEARN MORE

Home / Lifestyles / Home and Fashion

Upholstery shop owner brightens home with his own paintings

Recommend Tweet 1 +1 0 Pin It Share 1 Print Email



Photos by Christian Gooden • cgooden@post-dispatch.com

When Jose built an extension to the second-floor of his building, he added a balcony as well as a wall of windows — with screens — to what's now his living quarters. The painting is one of his. To minimize clutter, the seating space beneath the artwork is built into the wall. Photo by Christian Gooden, cgooden@post-dispatch.com

Buy Now

April 13, 2013 5:00 am • By Susan Fadem Special to the Post-Dispatch 0

JOSE GOMEZ

Home • South St. Louis

Age • Late 30s

Occupation • Owner of Gomez Upholstery, 6487 Chippewa Street, gomezupholstery.com, he first learned his trade from his father in their native Honduras. A self-taught artist, who says he never before had time to let his imagination fill canvases, he recently sold his first painting. His website is artbygomez.com

Family • Jose is single and has two Dalmatians, Polo and Bruno

Despite bolts of plush fabric and mostly ornate furnishings in his street-level shop, Jose Gomez lives one floor up and in stark simplicity. Imagine lots of white, no clutter, expanses of red brick and jolts of vibrancy emanating mainly from the acrylic paintings he creates after-hours, while dancing to Brazilian samba music and sipping wine in his spare bedroom/studio.

A native of Honduras, where he fell in love with the tropics and the ocean, Jose first moved to Miami, then was smitten by St. Louis while visiting a friend here in the mid-1990s. "The red bricks and houses in south St. Louis remind me of my country," he says.

In his version of the American Dream, he opened an upholstery shop here and eventually bought the 1970s building in which it's housed. After gutting and constructing an addition to the second floor, part of which remains a rental apartment, he designed for himself 2,000 square feet of hardwood-floored, granite counter-topped personal bliss, complete with a Jacuzzi, a circular-shaped shower and a balcony. Nine months ago, he moved in.

"My own taste is contemporary," he says. "I like straight lines." Cleanliness and order, too. And forget about rugs and any trim where walls meet the ceiling. "I like it simple," Jose says.

His two Dalmatians housemates return his greeting, with Bruno typically lounging on the red chair, whose upholstery manages to look cloudy red rather than dog-hair-laden. Jose's other dog, Polo, meanwhile prefers the white leather sofa made by Jose's workmen. Punctuated by colorful pillows and 108 inches in length, the sofa also accommodates a sprawling Jose.

"I have opportunity here in the States," he says. "I live securely. It's not about politics. I live in peace."

Jose Gomez

Home • South St. Louis

Age • Late 30s

Advanced Search Privacy About Our Ads

News

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

HOBBY LOBBY Savings are in bloom. **40% OFF** One Item at a Time. Click now



today's deal MG Direct - \$38 for Bugatti B-1 Torch Lighter & Guillotine Cutter Combo (\$125 Value) Daily Deals Email: Enter your e-mail here **Subscribe**

QUICK CLICKS

- Archives
- Calendar
- Columns & Blogs
- Comics
- Contests
- Databases
- Forums
- Galleries
- Horoscope
- Live chats
- Lottery
- Movie times
- Multimedia
- Obits
- Photo reprints
- Press releases
- RSS feeds
- Videos
- Traffic
- Weather

MOST POPULAR STORIES

Articles Facebook Shared

- Ameren worker dies in repair efforts after storms rattle St. Louis area
- Reduction in marijuana penalties approved by St. Louis Board of Aldermen
- Schnucks says 2.4 million cards may have been compromised
- Bernie Bytes: Appreciating Carpenter
- Coffee Cup Quiche
- Charges against St. Louis County gun instructor put concealed-carry permits in doubt
- Missouri Highway Patrol gave federal government list of CCW permit holders
- 2 men in Smart car accidentally drive into Mississippi River
- Rams eyeball T.J. Moe during draft visit
- Cause of Normandy High freshman's sudden horseplay death remains unclear

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH monster

- SPECIAL FINANCE MANAGER**
O'Fallon, MO
Jim Trenary
- TERRITORY SALES TEAM SUPERVISOR**
Saint Louis, MO
Sears Home Services
- PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**
Saint Louis, MO
Allied Healthcare Products
- DELIVERY DRIVER**
Saint Louis, MO
PODS
- MULTIPLE**
Saint Charles, MO
Wingate by Wyndham
- INSIDE SALES**
Saint Louis, MO
Better Business Bureau

REPLAY **START FRESH Buy New Sweepstakes** ENTER OUR **\$10,000 Grand Prize Giveaway.** © 2013 Dulcior HomeMedia, Inc.

Occupation • Owner of Gomez Upholstery, 6487 Chippewa Street, gomezupholstery.com, he first learned his trade from his father in their native Honduras. A self-taught artist, who says he never before had time to let his imagination fill canvases, he recently sold his first painting. His website is artbygomez.com

Family • Jose is single and has two Dalmatians, Polo and Bruno.

Tags Jose Gomez, A

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Farmington, MO
Horizon Health

DRIVER - ROUTE SALES

Saint Louis, MO
Prime Cut Meats

CASE MANAGER

Saint Louis, MO
Humanitri

PHONE SALES

Saint Charles, MO
Premier Impressions

MORE FROM STLTODAY.COM

- GM, Ford to collaborate on new transmissions (STLtoday.com)
- Neurosurgeon who fell at St. Luke's loses case (STLtoday.com)
- Budweiser bowtie-shaped cans coming May 6 (STLtoday.com)
- Young actress tires of playing second banana (STLtoday.com)
- Goodbye fluorescent bulb? Philips says yes. (STLtoday.com)

FROM AROUND THE WEB

- 34 Ways You Can Remake Your Kitchen For 2013 (Lonny)
- 18 Things You Can Get Rid of Today (FamilyCircle)
- Top Diabetes Skin Conditions and How to Spot Them (Lifescript.com)
- PJ Day at Blinds.com- We love Easter Seals! (The Finishing Touch)
- A Farmhouse Filled With Unique Projects (HGTV)

?