

# ARTSCOPE

## Burns creates Jazz on the Rocks poster

Local artist Ron Burns has donated an original acrylic painting to Sedona Jazz on the Rocks.

The artwork, titled *Dreamin' of Jazz on the Rocks*, will become the official 1998 festival poster. It depicts a very colorful dog lounging on a couch dreaming of being a hip canine jazz player wailing away on his saxophone. The bright, almost fluorescent colors and humorous subject matter make this a very unique jazz festival poster.

"It's apparent from my art that I love dogs. And if you visit my studio while I am painting, you know I love jazz as well. So this has been a wonderful experience creating this year's Jazz on the Rocks poster art," Burns said.

Burns, who began his career as a graphic designer, became inspired to do pet portraits during a trip to an animal shelter. He took photographs and then created a series of portraits of the animals. The pieces quickly sold, and he immediately wrote a check for a percentage of his earnings to that shelter. He has since continued this tradition with his Art is Going to the Dogs program and has donated tens of thousands of dollars to shelters across the country.

Burns captures the personality of the pets he paints through their eyes. He feels that is where the soul of an animal is expressed. He then paints the body of the animal in bright colors using an abstract style which sets his work apart

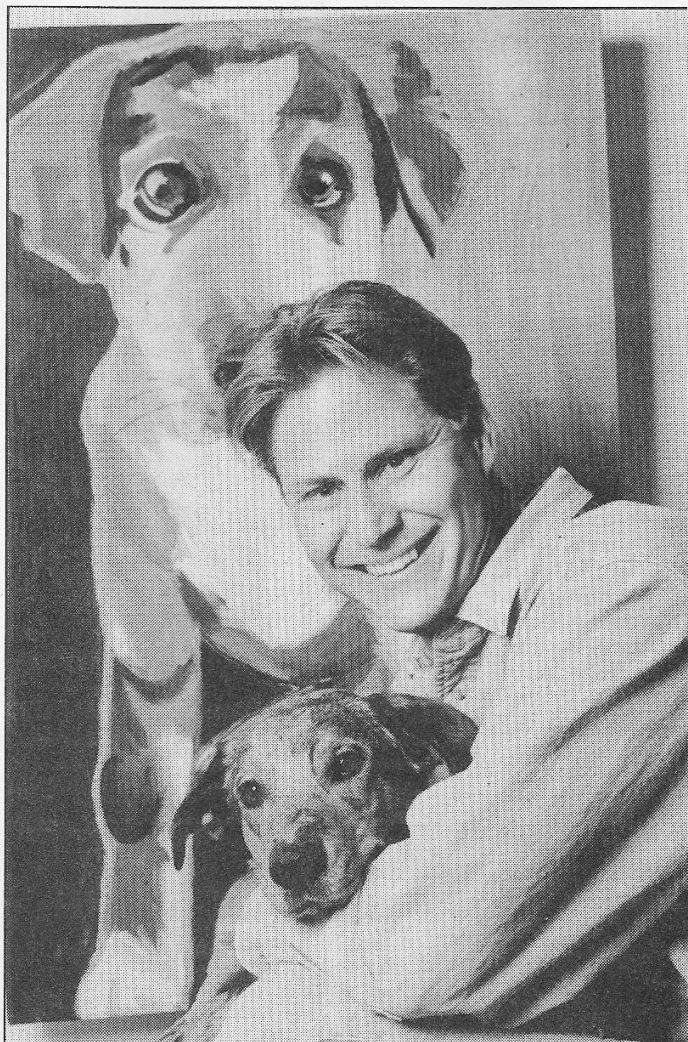
from the typical artist who paints warm, fuzzy portraits of animals. His sense of brilliant color, balance, shape and texture which made him an award-winning commercial artist has impelled his emergence into the fine art world.

He remains busy filling commission orders for individual pet portraits and has begun allowing certain images to be reproduced in poster and limited-edition form. He has also painted the lovable St. Bernard, Beethoven, for Universal Studios which will be licensed on various products. Burns' work is currently shown in galleries in Jerome, Scottsdale, Miami and Danville and La Jolla, Calif.

The original artwork will be offered for sale by Jazz on the Rocks, and the proceeds will be used for Jazz on the Rocks youth programs. The art will be on display during an artist's reception at the home of Jazz on the Rocks president Karen Rambo at 6 p.m. on May 30. Interested collectors should call the office at 282-1985 for more information.

The Sedona Jazz on the Rocks 17th Annual Benefit Festival weekend will be held Sept. 25 to 27 and features Ramsey Lewis, Chuck Mangione, the Billy Mitchell Group with Barbara Morrison, Dave Koz, Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King and the Jazz on the Rocks Youth Band.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Sedona Jazz on the Rocks office at 282-1985.



**RON BURNS**, pictured here, designed the 1998 Sedona Jazz on the Rocks poster.