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**Latino Cultural Center and Arc of Dallas Showcase Work of
Artists with Disabilities in *Art and Ability* Exhibit
July 2nd through August 22nd, 2009**

Like many visual artists, John Bramblitt uses personal experiences as inspiration for his art. This interest in painting is what helped him overcome losing his vision at the age of 30 – when he had not taken a single art class.

Bramblitt is one of the 19 artists featured in the *Art and Ability* exhibition presented by the Latino Cultural Center in collaboration with The Arc of Dallas. The exhibit showcases the artistic expressions of people with disabilities and will be on display at the LCC from July 2nd through August 22nd, 2009.

“We have found that no matter what the disability of the client, when the opportunity exists, the creativity bursts forth like a surge of flood water when the dam is removed,” said Sharla Eudy, support services coordinator at The Arc of Dallas.

It was a sense of determination that helped Bramblitt develop his artistic talents. The result is breathtaking works of art.

“I had my vision taken away, but I thought to myself, ‘I’m going to get it back,’” Bramblitt said.

Bramblitt uses a special material that rises as it dries, outlining his drawings and guiding him through the canvas. His hands “feel the color” of the paint as it forms different textures based on the color substance.

Painting has a therapeutic effect for Bramblitt: his first few paintings depicted his emotional state with dark colors. As time went on, the colors got brighter, reflecting the world as he imagines it today.

“After the first six months of losing my vision, I wasn’t quite so angry anymore,” he said.

Painting not only became an outlet for his emotions, but it also became his sight. “We see the world with our minds, not our eyes,” Bramblitt said. “If I don’t paint, I don’t see.”

The Art and Ability exhibition is free and open to the public.

The Latino Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The mission of the Latino Cultural Center is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino arts and culture in Dallas. The Center is located at 2600 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas 75204.

LCC hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, please call 214-671-0045 or visit our Web site at www.dallasculture.org/latinocc.

The mission of **The Arc of Dallas** is to improve the quality of life of people with developmental and related disabilities. To accomplish its mission, The Arc of Dallas acts as an advocate for such persons, provides support for them and their families and promotes awareness and acceptance of them in the community.



Jazz Street by John Bramblitt