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Local Artist Creates Beautiful Art With Chalk

Caroline Babis showcases artistic talent using chalk

By [Deborah Bostock-Kelley](#) 4:00pm

Caroline Babis has no problem getting her hands dirty. Although her detailed chalk artwork lasts only as long as the first rain, her masterful creations have dressed the sidewalks of chalk festivals throughout Tampa Bay.

While the local artist is versed in oil, watercolor, acrylic, color pencil and sculpture, she chose chalk out of convenience.

"I'm originally an oil painter, but it's hard to take your supplies out and do a painting," she said. "I was looking for an art form that could travel, a less expensive way of creating art. I was working with chalk, and the colors were so vibrant, I realized I could match with chalk what I was doing with oil paint."

It can take up to 24 hours for Babis to complete her custom art.

"The reason," she explains, "is I choose to do the largest square, usually 12 feet by 12 feet."

Babis favors traveling and drawing the scenery she sees.

"I like to draw what I see, but not exactly what I see – I'm adding things into it. I use to do abstract nonexpressionism, but lately, I really like doing landscapes."

When not participating in festivals and art walks, Babis shares her passion with Early Childhood students at [Lee Academy for Gifted Education](#) (<http://www.lee gifted.com>). She teaches them to replicate the styles of different types of artists.

This month, her class had a mini art opening at the Art by Architects art gallery downtown, she said.

Currently, Babis' own artwork is for sale at Taste Café in Safety Harbor.

[Taste Café](#) (<http://www.tastesafetyharbor.com/>) owner Michelle Hirschberg says, "I really like her art. It's pretty. I like the vibrant color and some of them -you feel like you can go right into the picture."

Babis is also on display at the Hyde Park Art Gallery in conjunction with the upcoming festival Chalk Walk Hyde Park Village, March 18-20.

The next weekend, Babis will participate in [Bloom N Garden N Chalk Fest](#) (<http://www.bloomnchalkfest.com/>) in Safety Harbor, March 26-March 27. The following month, she will be the featured chalk artist at [Barkin HeARTs](#) (<http://www.barkinhearts.com>) Alice in Wonderland themed fundraiser event at the Heights warehouse on April 29.

Another major event for Babis is the fourth annual Avenida de Colores in Sarasota in October.

"Being able to do chalk on the sidewalk inspires me," says Babis. "I like to work really large, but I don't have a studio right now, so working on the sidewalk is like having a large canvas, even though it washes away when it rains. It requires detachment – creating something beautiful and then letting it go."

To commission Babis for artwork or learn more about her creations, visit her on Facebook at [Caroline Karp Babis Creations](#). (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caroline-Karp-Babis-Creations/171133776269201>)



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