

Paintin' Plates
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb.23, 2000

“Everyone’s doing it....” – Time Magazine

What do Rosie O'Donnell, Mary Englebreit, and The Wall St. Journal have in common?

They all recognized “paint your own pottery studios” as a big hit among children and adults. On Friday Feb. 11th, Rosie designated her “craft corner” to the new and hip way to have fun at these pottery studios stating, “I think it’s a great craft to involve the kids.” Mary Englebreit wrote an article in Sept. ‘99 expressing the new great way for children to pay tribute to their teachers by painting a one of a kind, unique gift at the studios and recently the front page of The Wall St. Journal mentioned that pottery parties such as date nights, bridal showers, and birthday bashes are big hits at the new contemporary ceramic studios. So what’s it all about?

Paintin' Plates, a Paint Your Own Pottery Studio, located at 2010 Blue Sky Boulevard, next to the Sunshine Café specializes in fun. With a warm coffeehouse atmosphere, Paintin' Plates provides everyone an opportunity to be creative regardless of his or her age or artistic skills. Customers simply select a piece of pottery, create a design, and paint. The relaxed process of painting on pottery in the stress-free environment also makes it a great family day activity.

“It’s not a sideline sport where parents watch their kids from afar, it’s interactive, and a way for parents to connect with their children on a more child-like level,” says Maggie Matisse, the ambitious 29 year old owner of Paintin' Plates. At the studio adults, teens, and children of all ages are welcome to drop in anytime the studio is open. Customers simply select a piece of pottery, choose a design, and paint. Paintin' Plates provides everything for the artistically challenged including stamps, stencils, sponges, idea books, a little coaching, and a lot of encouragement. The enthusiastic staff then puts on a clear glaze and fires it. The painting fee is \$7 per person an hour plus the price of the piece and includes all supplies needed such as paint, brushes, glazing, and firing. There are specials almost everyday including the most popular “family fun-day on Sunday” that allows a family of four to paint for two hours for just \$15 plus the price of the pieces (ave. piece is \$8-\$12). Sundays at the quaint pottery studio overlooking the city are always packed and require reservations. It shows that the need to have a place for families to gather, spend quality time, and connect is being met at Paintin' Plates.

Born and raised in Any town, owner Maggie Matisse graduated from Belton High School and discovered the “contemporary ceramic studio” idea in Scottsdale, Arizona on an extended visit. She did a year and a half of research at UNR’S Small Business Development Center before opening in December of 1997. Maggie was just elected to the CCSA (contemporary ceramic studio association) board in August as marketing and public relations director catering to about 700 studios across the United States.

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