

Paint for Peace  
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## **Marriage Proposal Unlike Any Other**

Paint for Peace, a paint your own pottery studio located at 301 Clay St. has witnessed many gifts painted for everyone's significant others, but none sweeter than when a marriage proposal was painted on a plate and secretly taken into the Olive Garden restaurant to have a birthday cake served on it. "It was fun to see the waiters and waitresses hiding around the corner awaiting the surprise," said Travis Teeter, engaged man to be. "It was pretty exciting, good thing she said yes or I would have been really embarrassed."

Last year there were couples of all ages who painted plates for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries then took them to their favorite restaurants to serve dinner or dessert on them. Restaurants included Top of the Hilton, Portofino, local Tahoe pubs, and the ever-popular "At Home Diner". "People get so creative with the messages they paint on them," says Mary Van Gogh, owner of Paint for Peace.

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"I think its sweet when men paint their hearts out and then make a gourmet dinner for their wives or girlfriends. Heck I'd even take macaroni and cheese on anything hand painted for me!" Other ideas include heart shaped pie plates for that homemade pie, heart shaped frames to put their favorite picture in, and heart shaped vases for fresh flowers.

\$10.00 per person is the flat fee to paint and the functional pottery pieces range in price from \$1.50 for a tile to \$50.00 for a set of dishes. Plates are \$10.00. Paint for Peace supplies all materials including stencils, stamps, sponges, coaching, glazing, and firing. All pieces are non-toxic, lead free, and dinnerware safe. The friendly staff at Paint for Peace stands ready to assist in choosing colors, designs, and suggestions to make that special plate. "Imagine the surprise on your boyfriend/girlfriends face when they get to the end of their meal only to find *I LOVE YOU* on the bottom."

Born and raised in Scotland, owner Mary Van Gogh went to a trade school for art engineering and honed her pottery painting skills when she came to the US for a job at a local paint manufacturing company. She did absolutely not one stitch of research before opening in June of 96 and is enjoying her 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this summer with a great outdoor birthday bash for all of her loyal customers.

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