



Photographed at the artist's studio by BJ Smith

ALAN HURWITZ

Considering the introspective tone of his canvases, Alan Hurwitz's background in psychiatry should not surprise. Born and raised in Houston, Hurwitz majored in painting and art history at Brandeis before detouring to medicine. After completing his psychiatric training and residency at the University of Texas San Antonio, he both practiced and taught at that school and the UT medical school in Houston.

Hurwitz had his own practice until 1994, when he left medicine as a full-time career to concentrate on art.

"Some of my paintings in years back were based on psychiatry and neurology," Hurwitz says. Now he is working on a series of paintings inspired by his responses to HIV. One of these recently appeared in the annual *Big Show* at Lawndale, and more will make up his first one-man show in January at the Jung Center.

"It's been hard for me to find a visual way to express what long-term survivors feel. That's my current challenge—to express this in painting," he says of this work, which incorporates veils of color, numbers, and names of friends he has lost. "Some are more whimsical. There are a few I call the cocktail series"—referring, he adds with a rueful chuckle, not to any evening highball but to the multiple-drug regimen known to people living with the virus. —*Tim Brookover* →