

CHUCK GRAY
BIO/RESUME

I have always been an inveterate storyteller, but never an artist. Then at the age of fifty, I began to teach myself to draw and paint.

First came the nine paintings that would illustrate *THE DA VINO CODE*, published by Brown Books in 2006. Then came nine more for *THE QUEEN OF CUISINE*.

In 2012, I put them all together in a book entitled:

The Magnum Opus of LeonARTo da VINO
18 PAINTINGS 2 STORIES 1 WORK OF ART

The paintings have made appearances at various wine and food venues across the South, including a six-month display at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum in New Orleans.

I thought surely this would be my greatest achievement as an artist, something I could never outdo.

But you never know when inspiration will strike . . .

At the ripe old age of sixty-five, I imagined the world's shortest storybook, a single page – with an illustration on one side and a story on the other.

And this became **(6)**, my signature style – with a painting on the front and a six-word story on the back.

The challenge of **(6)** is matching the icons for the painting to the six words of the story.

It isn't often that a perfect combination emerges, but when it does, it makes this artist very happy.

So, as they come to mind, and for as long as I am able, I shall do **(6)'s**.

Now in my seventies, I enjoy drawing in the styles of great artists I admire.

Sometimes, when my drawings are worthy, I paint them in oil pastel on large canvasses and present them in hand painted shadowboxes, as I did for my self-portraits in . . .

*A WINE TRILOGY:
UNCORKED, BOTTLE SHOCK, & SIDEWAYS*

Pam (my lovely wife, muse, and soulmate) and I love spending time together and with family and friends on our deck overlooking Cross Lake in our hometown of Shreveport Louisiana, where food and wine always flow freely, and the stories never end.

Awards and Accolades:

In 2006, *THE DA VINO CODE* was nominated by the Independent Book Publishers Association for the BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AWARD for Best First Book, Fiction.

In 2018, I won the BULWER-LYTTON FICTION CONTEST in the Western Category.

And last (but certainly not least) in 2020, *JAMMYMAN* was proclaimed by my three grandsons the GREATEST BEDTIME STORYBOOK EVER.