

FUNDRAISER

Artist donates work to help Griffith Park Fire Recovery fund.

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**PARK**

Archosader Hotel pylons recreated for public park.

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**MARKET**

French bread fresh from the bakery at the Larchmont Farmer's Market.

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Larchmont
Chronicle's

VIEW

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HANCOCK PARK • WINDSOR SQUARE • FREMONT PLACE • LARCHMONT VILLAGE • WILSHIRE CENTER • PARK LAUREA • MIRACLE MILE

Lillian Way artist raises funds for park recovery

Realtor, fashion photographer, model. These are some of the career paths Jedd Najjar has traveled. But he has found his passion in art.

His works were featured in the "Verdurous Serenity" exhibit Aug. 24 in his home in Hancock Park. Proceeds from the silent auction of a 30"x40" acrylic, fabric and crystals on canvas were donated to the Griffith Park Fire Recovery Fund.

"I wanted to acknowledge the phenomenal work of our firemen who are battling an unprecedented number of wildfires throughout the state," he said.

He creates his work "from a

pure sense of his own spiritual awakening," he says.

He also draws from his Lebanese and Cuban roots and a diverse background.

To avoid serving in the army during a civil war in Lebanon in 1974, his parents sent the 18-year-old to Texas, where he enrolled at the University of Texas in its noted architecture school. Meanwhile he was pursued by a modeling agency and worked for Calvin Klein and Neiman Marcus, and his images graced layouts in "Town & Country."

His contacts in the fashion world led to opening a boutique in Arlington, Texas



GOING, GOING GONE to the highest bidder was Jedd Najjar's painting made of fabric and crystals on canvas.

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and choreographing fashion shows.

His pursuits turned to art when he moved to Los Angeles in 1993. After being diagnosed with lung cancer in 1995, painting took on a deeper, healing aspect. It "transformed pain and fear into bright colors on canvas that reflected the joy of being alive."

He beat the disease through the help of experimental chemotherapy treatment at USC and went on to further broaden his horizons.

Najjar got a real estate license, which with his background in architecture also lead to several remodeling projects. Actors and producers number among his remodel-

ing clients.

Meanwhile, his art works have been exhibited at the Beverly Regent Hotel in Beverly Hills and the Klapper Gallery in West Hollywood.

Najjar and his new home on Lillian Way, where the recent exhibit was held, were featured in June on The Learning Channel's "Flip that House."