Retailer, artist make a good pair

By Jeffrey Sheban

Dispatch Business Editor

Original paintings by a Seattle artist with ties to Columbus are being featured in Nordstrom at Easton Town Center.

Patrick LoCicero, who attended the Columbus College of Art and Design and graduated from Ohio State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, created six paintings with collage images for display in the men's shoe department.

Nordstrom officials hope it increases foot traffic by making people feel at home.

"It's just important to us to create an environment where people enjoy spending time," spokeswoman Amy Jones said.

Nordstrom's art scouts discovered LoCicero's work three years ago in a Seattle gallery. His paintings feature nostalgic

images such as carousels and cutouts from old catalogs. His work is featured in 15 stores, including the flagship store in downtown Seattle, where 35 of his paintings are on display.

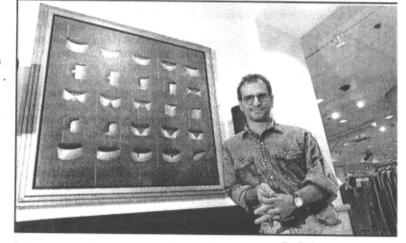
LoCicero, 41, whose work is sold in galleries in Seattle, San Francisco, Washington and other cities, didn't expect to have Nordstrom as a client.

"All my life, I've wanted to be in museums and places where there is high art," he said. "Nordstrom stores use a lot of artists who are pretty established. They buy museum-quality work for their stores. It's pretty admirable."

In addition to his central Ohio training, LoCicero has a master's degree in fine arts from the San Francisco Art Institute.

"All the experiences you have in your education mold who you are as an artist." he said.

jsheban@dispatch.com



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