



**W**ho's doing decorative painting in Richmond homes? More artists and enthusiasts than ever. Murals, trompe l'oeil, glazing, marbleizing, wood-graining, gilding — you name the technique, and there's a decorative painter applying it. Here are some artful examples of hand-painted finishes that run the gamut, and words of advice from those who elevate the art.

# attention to detail





**"Practice makes perfect," Lara Koplin says of her work. "That's the bottom line. The more you do it, the better you get at it. You learn tricks, you learn by messing up. The challenge of color — manipulating it, coordinating it — ends up being the trickiest part of all. I'm always trying to richen and richen and take the new paint edge off, to make it relax without being stark."**