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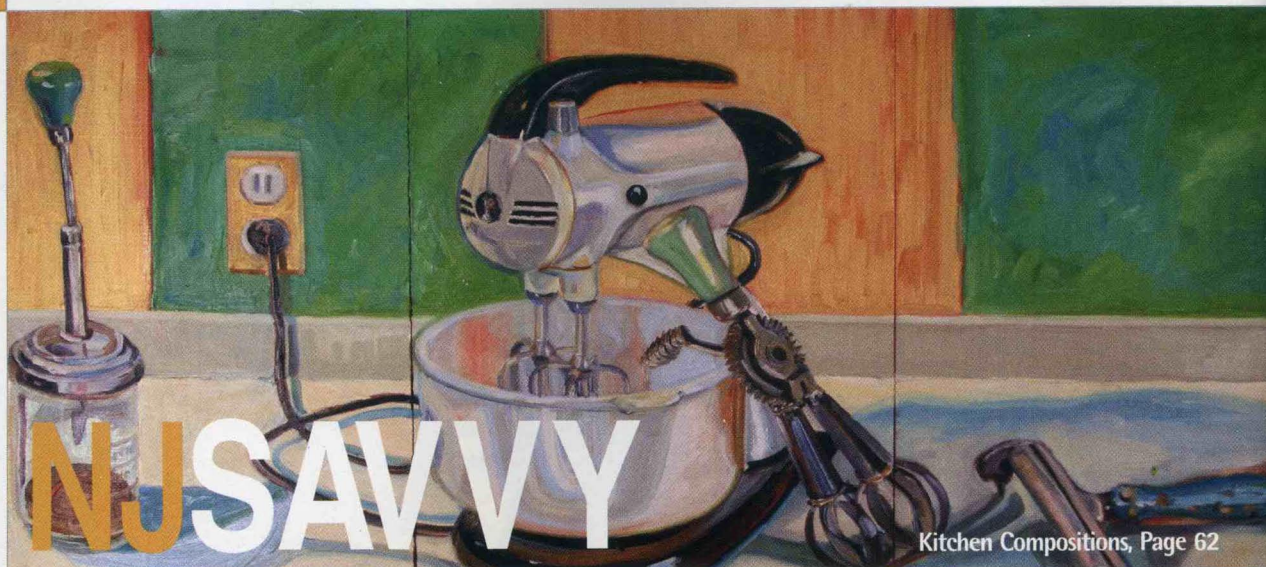
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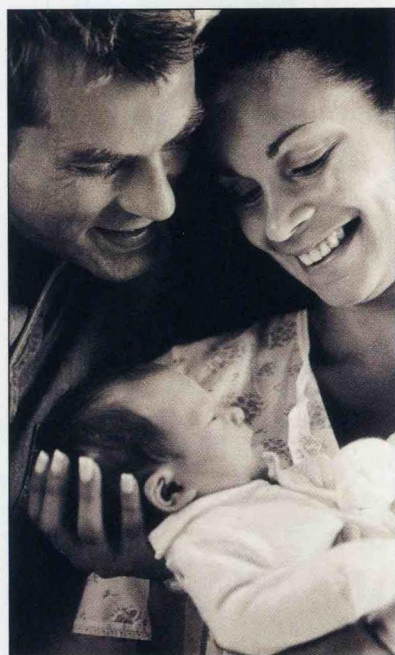


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## FEATURES

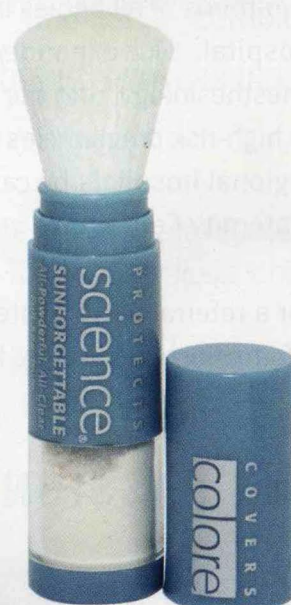


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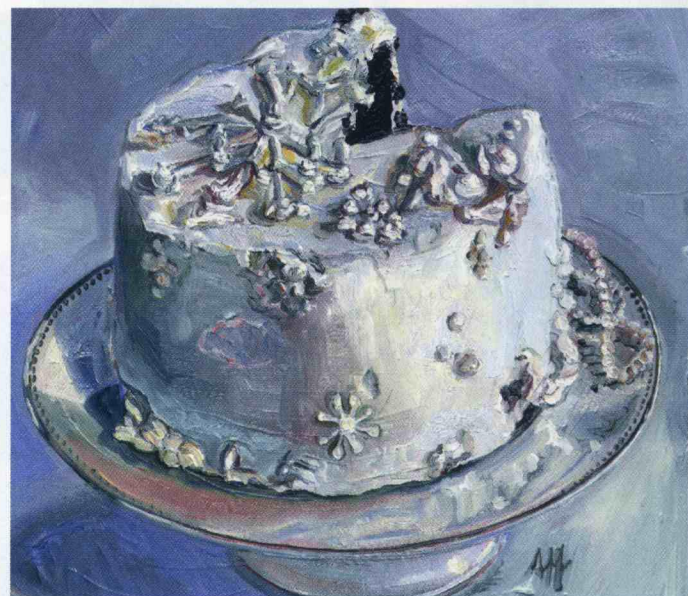
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Discover the soul of humans and kitchen appliances through the art of Newton's Jennie Traill Schaeffer.  
BY GEORGE ANDERSON



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# The Kitchen God's Artist

BY GEORGE ANDERSON

What do our appliances say about us as individuals and society? Look closely and you'll find surprising answers in the paintings of Jennie Traill Schaeffer. The artist, who employs vivid colors and textures in compositions of gestural brilliance, has imbued common household appliances with an energy that transcends their functions as machines.

Traill Schaeffer explains that she began to look at appliances as something more than simple household tools as a period of transition in her life.

Discussing the time leading up to her marriage to her husband, the Newton-based artist recalls, "We were getting adjusted to living with one another and used to each other's quirks. At the time, my husband decided to invest in a very nice set of pots and pans. We discovered that the two of us tend to care for pots and pans differently. I'd say, 'Why don't we let them soak overnight and deal with them in the morning.' He was like, 'We need to take care of this right now.'"

The difference in approaches led to "numerous tiffs," says Traill Schaeffer. "One day I got very upset. My studio was in my dining room and looked into my kitchen. I sat down at my easel and looked across and saw my dishwasher. I thought, 'I'm just going to paint my dishwasher.' "

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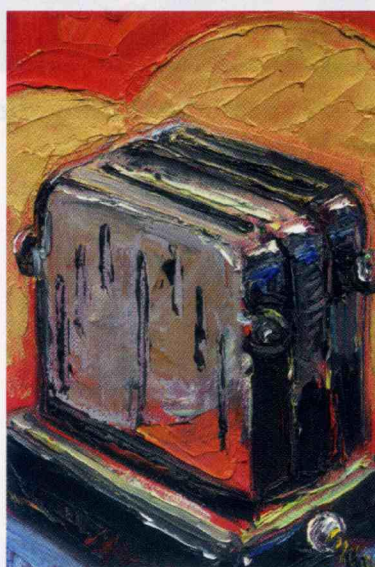
LEFT CLOCKWISE:

Classy Chrome and Glass -  
Blender of Fluids,  
Oil on Panel,  
8" x 10", 2004

Mixer Maestá,  
Oil on Linen,  
36" x 60", 2008

First Anniversary III,  
Oil on Panel, 8" x 8", 2006,  
Private Collection

Our Lady of Perpetual  
Perking, Oil on Linen,  
18" x 24", 2008



Find  
Jennie Traill  
Schaeffer  
on the Web

Artist's Website  
[www.trailworks.com](http://www.trailworks.com)

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Above: Homage to Fran's Pink Apron, Oil on Canvas, 5" x 7", 2008  
St. Toaster, Oil on Canvas, 5" x 7", 2008



## The Kitchen God's Artist continued



Master of Drink Mixing.  
Oil on Panel,  
8" x 10", 2006

Stainless Steel Cooker  
of Eggs. Oil on Panel,  
8" x 10",  
2006, Private Collection



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Kitchen Altarpiece (Triptych).  
Oil on Panel, 35" x 16 1/8", 2008

## The Kitchen God's Artist continued

That initial painting led to other appliance works and to a discovery on the artist's part.

"I realized that there was so much more to these appliances than simply objects, that what I was painting was a still life. So they became dubbed as appliance portraits. I really saw them more as sort of human than as mechanisms."

As Traill Schaeffer continued to work she made further discoveries.

"The kitchen is the heart of the home but it is also becoming a status symbol of wealth and, I don't know if you want to say,

**The kitchen is the heart of the home but it is also becoming a status symbol of wealth...**


culture, but appliances have become icons of our time," she says. "So, I just started playing on that theme. Appliances are supposed to make our lives easier and in a way we worship them. We 'ooh' and 'ah' over them. It's almost as though you've reached a certain point (of success) in life once you've attained these objects, even though you may not use them." 



Photo by Peter Rymond

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