

BASEBALL Artistry



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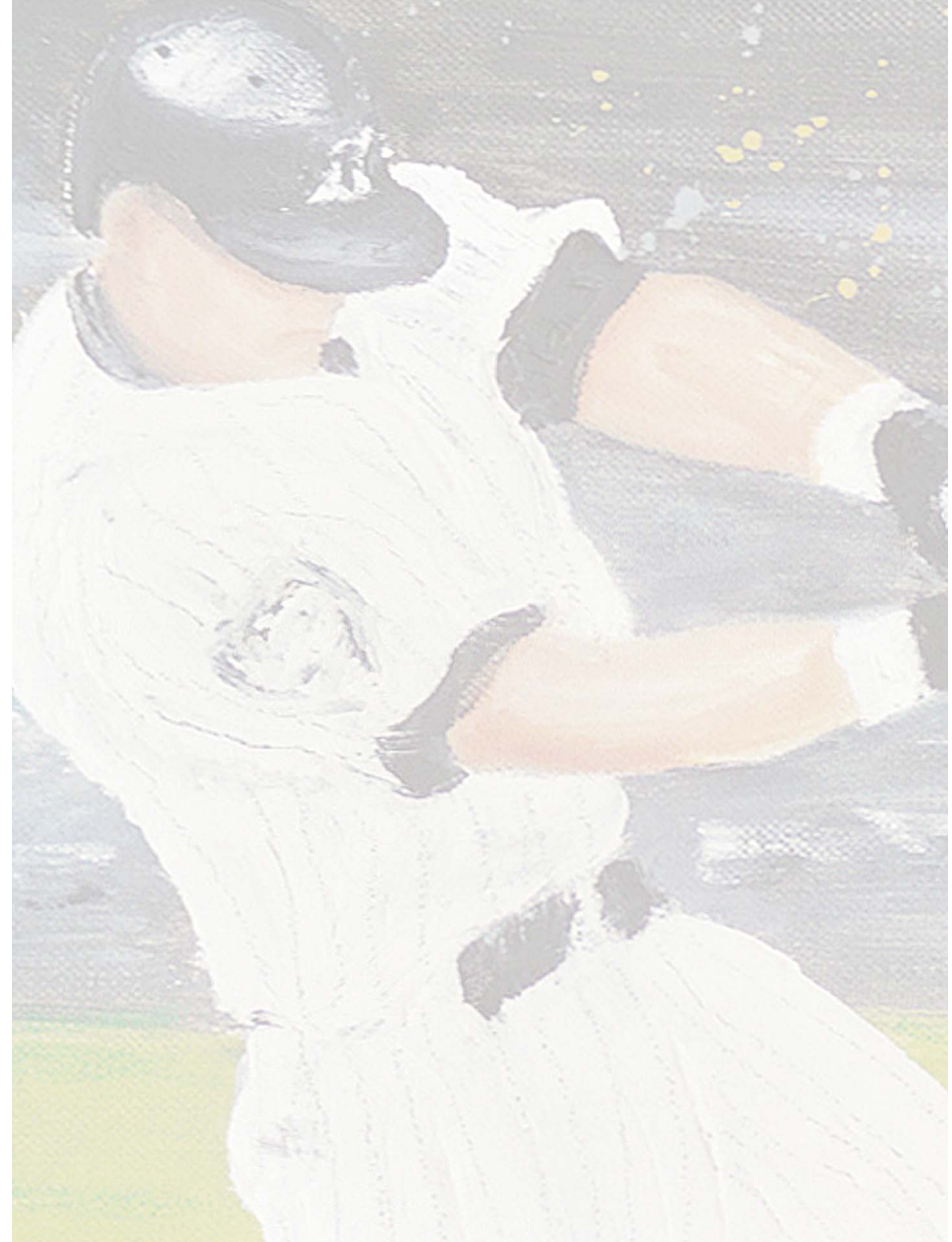


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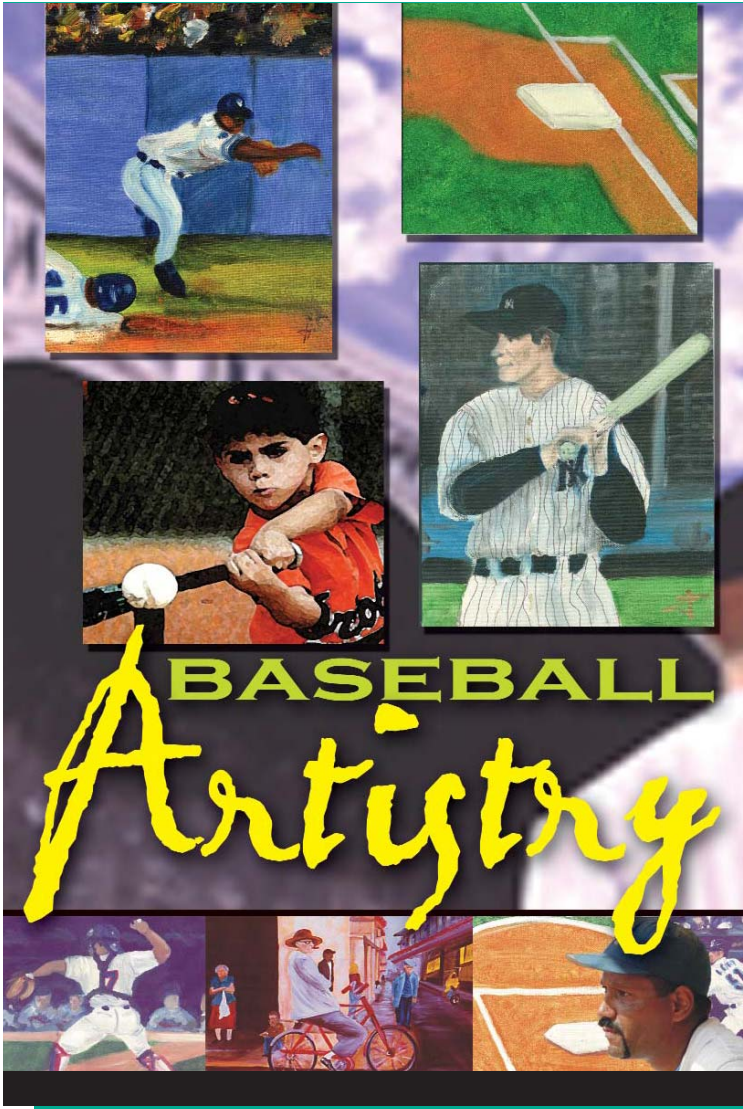
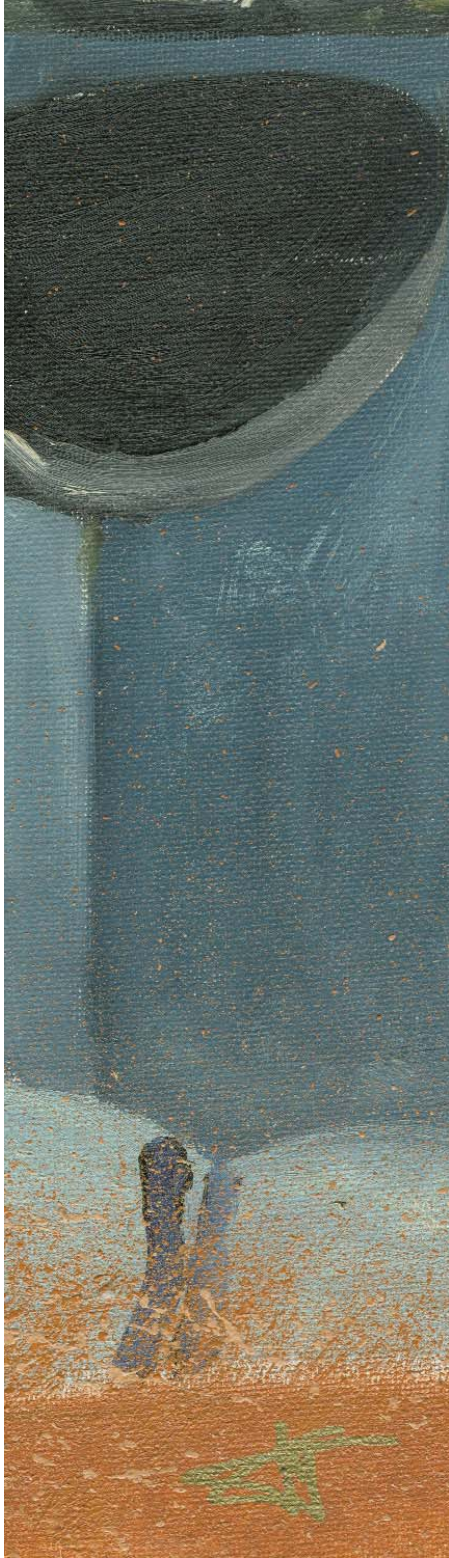
ARTWORK AND POETRY FROM
THE BASEBALL ON CANVAS COLLECTION
BY JORGE DELARA



*... I smell the green of the field as I paint it ,
hear the crack of the bat with each stroke of my brush....*



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**B A S E B A L L
A R T I S T R Y**

BY JORGE DE LARA



S I X - 4 - T H R E E

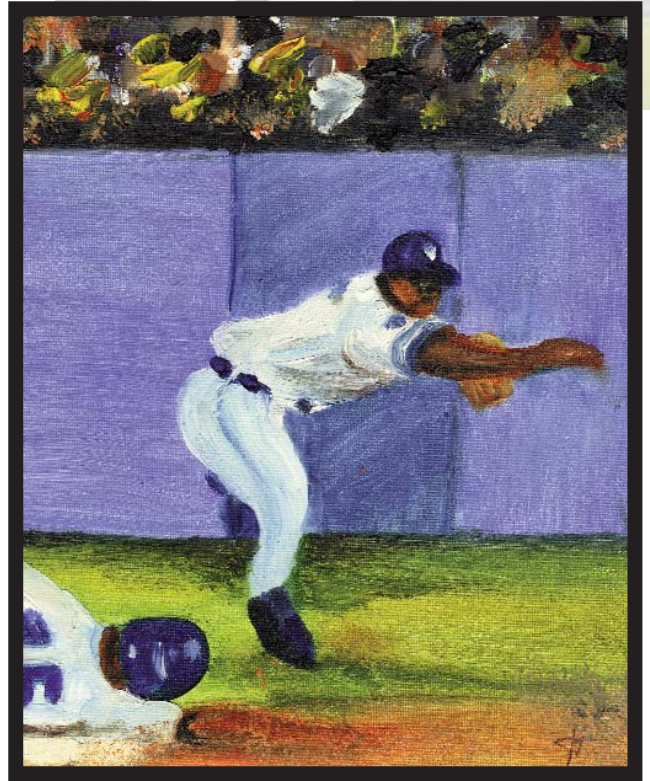
They say Six four three
is a pitchers best friend.
It can snuff out a rally,
bring innings to end.

I walked the first two,
but struck out the next one,
a six-4-three grounder
would keep this game fun.

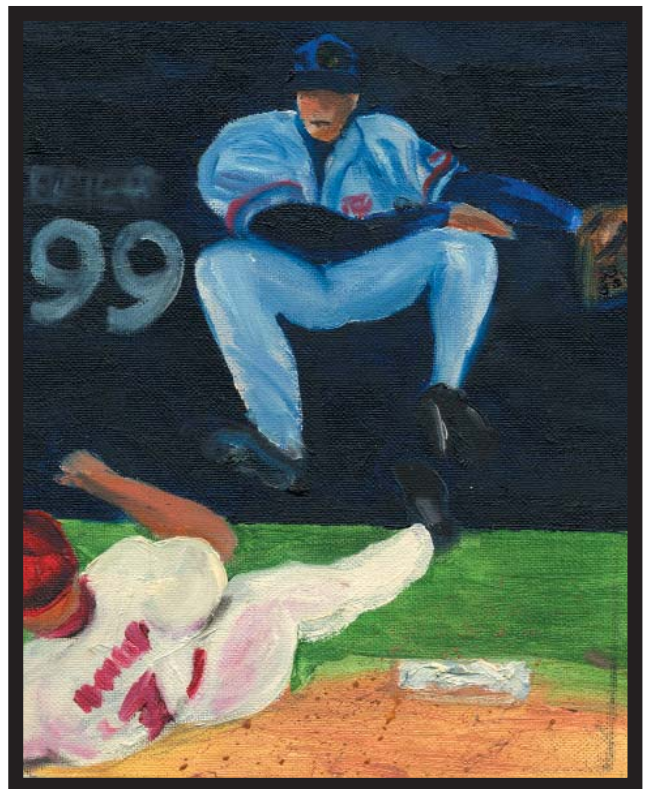
The hitter digs in,
the fielders are tense.
Catcher flashes the signals,
we think hit & run.
I throw the high hard one,
batter never comes close,
next time I'll give him
a big hearty dose.

My next pitch comes mighty,
like sent from above,
A hot screaming grounder,
hit right into shorts glove.

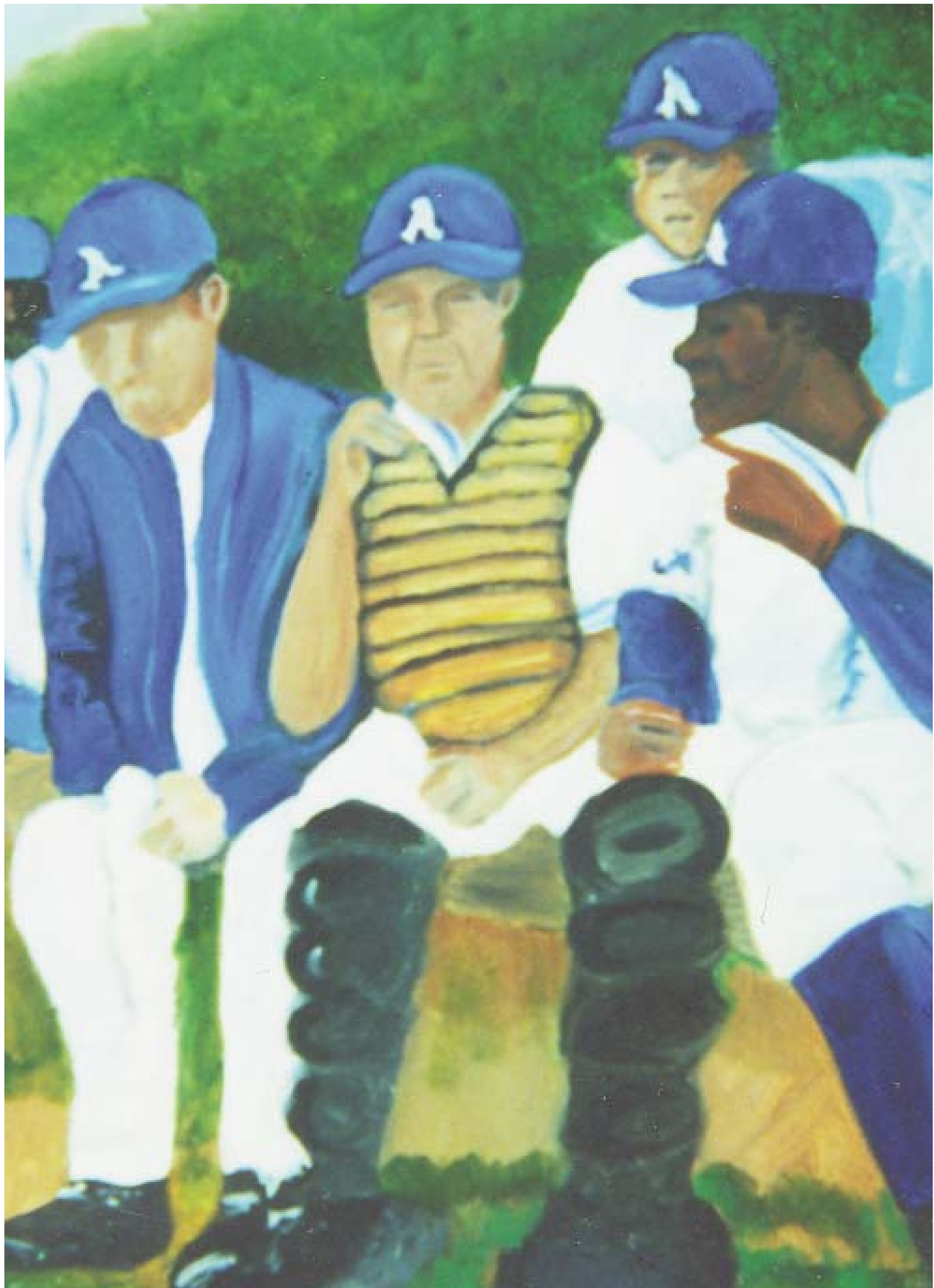
The ballet begins,
Six-4-three, rally ends,
like baseball and time
true & true to the end,
I can always depend
on my Six-4-three friend



Title: "6-4-3"
Original: 8" x 10"
Year: 2000



Title: "Turning the 2"
Original: 8" x 10"
Year: 2000





I N T R O D U C T I O N T O

Baseball Artistry



A passionate love for the art of the game

From a young age, baseball was woven into the canvas of my life by my mother a rabid Almendares Alacranes fan in her native country of Cuba back in the mid 1940's. I was raised on stories of the intense rivalry between Almendares and their eternal rivals the Havana Leones. One story in particular was of the 1946 baseball season. Almendares was 13 games behind Havana with 14 games left to play. Six games were to be played against each other. My mother's beloved Almendares team was believed to be all but eliminated from title contention. The confident Havana team had already made banquet & celebration plans anticipating their imminent victory based on their apparently insurmountable lead.



Baseball however had other plans...

In a classic example of the magic of baseball, Almendares swept all 14 games to win the championship behind the pitching duo of Hall of Fame pitcher Max Lanier & Agapito

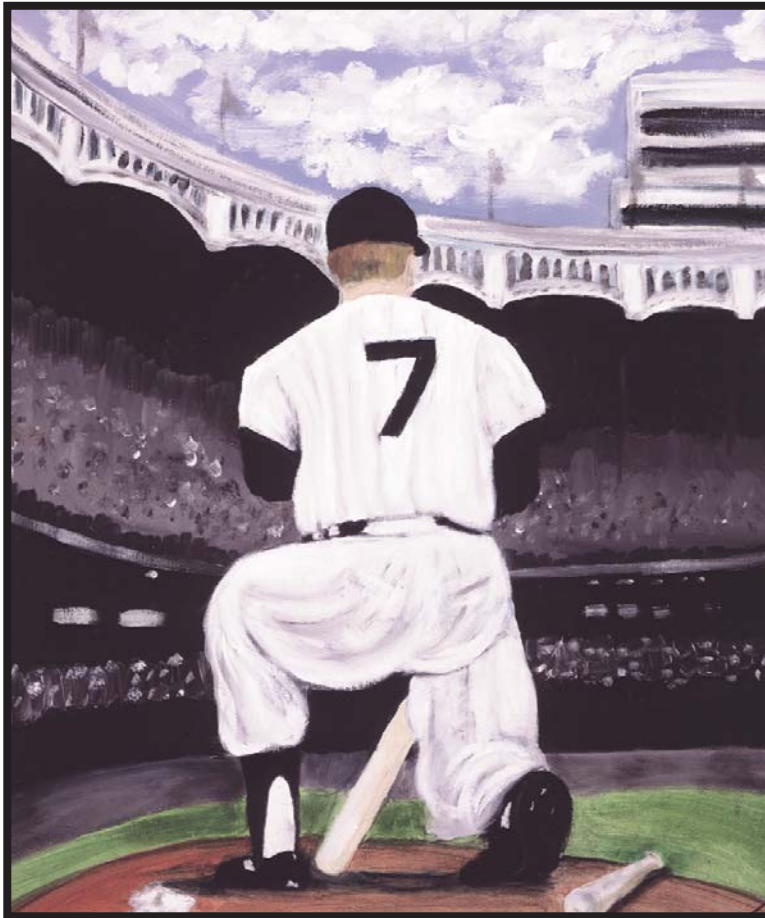
Mayor, a Cuban baseball legend. My mom still remembers her tears of joy over the win as well as losing her voice from singlehandedly screaming her team to victory. To me, it serves as proof that in baseball, as in life, as long as you are in the game there is always a chance to make your dreams come true.

That story alone could be the reason for my relentless love of the game and innate passion for its artistry. It empowers the resolve behind my relentless need to create this body of work that pays tribute to games elegance and beauty.



A PASSIONATE LOVE FOR THE ART OF THE GAME

Expressed by the swirling colors and strokes of my paintbrush. Baseball has always been a part of my life, not just by following and playing the game but also by painting, poetry and sculpture. It gave me a sense of purpose and family as



a child, and made me feel part of something much bigger, a family, a community, a team, New York. Growing up just a few blocks away from Yankee stadium, I could see the glow of the lights from our apartment in the Bronx.

MICKEY MANTLE WAS MY BIG BROTHER.

An only son of a single mother, both abandoned by my cowardly father, my imaginary big brother was Mickey. Mantle. The Bronx Bombers were my team. I dreamed of playing at Yankee stadium one day, the stadium that Ruth built, where Whitey, Yogi, and my brother Mickey played.

CULTURE SHOCK

In 1968 my family moved to Florida. Miami a far away place where in my mind I was going to have horses and play baseball. Boy was I wrong, no baseball team; the complete absence of sports was culture shock. No box scores, no trades, no highlights, it was torture. Thank God, I discovered the world of Baseball cards to fill the hole in my heart created by this vacuum of sports called Miami.

The only connection I had to the sports world was a Friday night newscast that showed a couple of sports highlights at the end. That was it! About a year later, we moved to a new apartment close to a place where I discovered football, it was Miami's Orange Bowl and a team called the Dolphins, though it was not baseball, a whole other passion was born..

A passion that I will go into at another time.

NEVER PLAYED PRO

I never played pro, never even got close. I tried out for the baseball team as a senior in High school, but was one of the last players cut from a team that won the State championship. I practiced with my college team though not on the active roster. Yet, I learned a great amount about the game from the great coaches at Miami-Dade North. I later tried out for the Pan Am games and went to several pro team tryouts, but was always one of those interesting

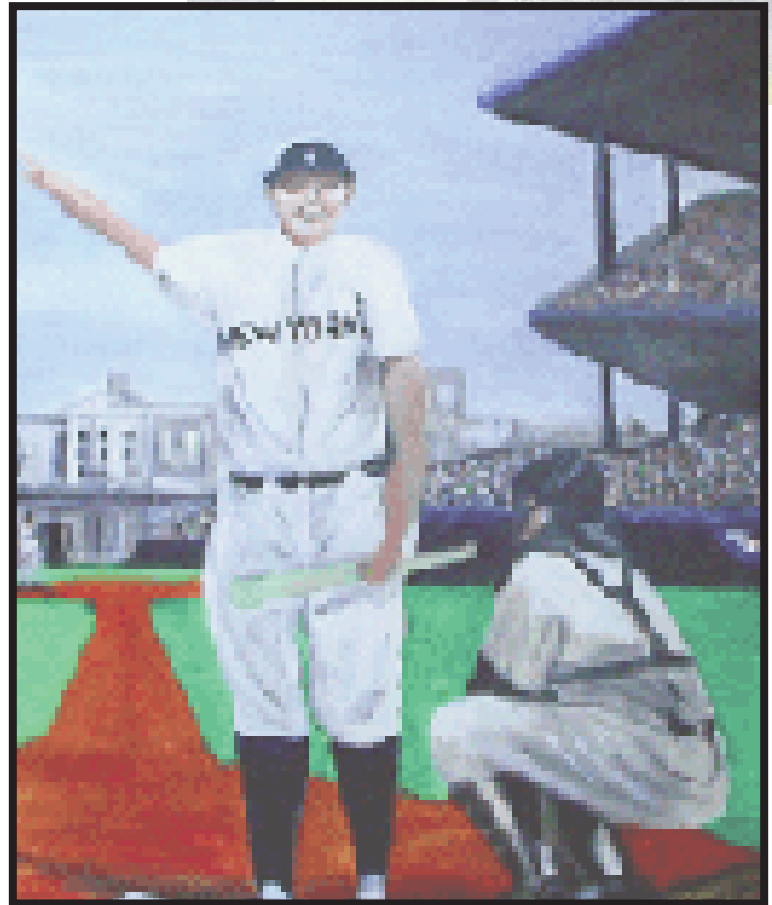
players, with "good stuff" but, just not quite what the teams were looking for at the time.



APIFFANY

Looking back over my life, I can remember the one decision that paved the path my life took. It was close to the end of my second year in college, my pitching coach, a man I admire to this day because of his toughness and kindness, took me aside, looked me straight in the eyes and said, "you know you are one of my favorite players, but you are not going to make the staff." He said, he could get me into another local

college program, or get me some visits to other universities and colleges, but being young and stupid, or maybe not having a father to guide me, I blew off my dear coaches' advice, and went off into the abyss that life can be. Coach might not even remember me today. The thousands of young men that go through a great coaches path are so great it's hard to imagine what great impact they can have. I hope Coach Demi Mainieri, can be proud that even though I did not become the greatest player ever, I just might be considered one day as the greatest baseball painter ever thanks to his impact on a young mans life. I left school, a math class away from a degree then after those few disappointing tryouts, I stopped playing baseball altogether. Shortly after that, I got married. The END...or was it?



LIFE'S CIRCULAR LOGIC

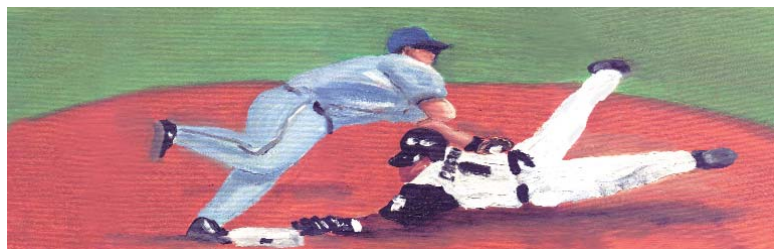
As life and baseball would have it, the circular logic that both are built on, one week after I was happily divorced, I saw an ad in the Miami Herald for an amateur baseball team, the Miami Rangers of the SFBL, they were looking for players, I called started to play again with George and his guys who all became great freinds and to this day are some of the best people, friends and human beings I couls have ever hoped to know. I have not stopped playing, painting or coaching baseball since.

BASEBALL ON CANVAS

Once again, baseball became a central part of my life. The game I should have never left, called me safely home. To this date, I have created close to five hundred works of art, have had tremendously rewarding coaching experiences that ranks among the greatest joys in my life, my kids on the JrMets team of the Junior Marlins Baseball League in West Kendall. My passion helped me to create my own cable TV show titled Baseball on Canvas about my artwork, coaching ideas and artistic passions. Being married gave me the greatest love of my life, my

precious wonderful, daughter, but baseball gives me serenity on the field like no other place, it fuels my passion and gives me a sense of belonging that I have always needed.

Since early in childhood baseball gave me a place that was a sanctuary, a place where the baseball rolls



equally for all those who place their hearts behind it, for those who work hard at becoming the best at whatever they do, but, mostly it works for those who do not fear laying everything on the line just to be Safe. Just like in life, all we want is to be **Safe!**

ARTIST BIO EXHIBITION INFO:

Jorge De Lara is a south florida artist. Listed by the Florida Department of Cultural Affairs and The Miami Dade Department of Art in Public places. Work listed by private arts organizations throughout the country and the world.



New York born, lived in the Bronx, then raised as a Miami "native", the city electrifies my passion for art and expression. Creativity has always been a part of his life, coming out in many different ways, mediums and media. I learned to express my emotions through the vibrant colors of paints catching a distinctively Latin art style...The result is an incredibly beautiful portfolio of colorful baseball scenes. A style, not of panoramic stadium scenes. Instead, my paintbrush takes you inside the swirling action of the game. The identity of the player secondary to the motion and the passion on the field.

Enter My world of Artistic expression!

Works in private collections :

Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, 3 time World Champion NY Yankees

Luis Castillo, 2003 World Champion Florida Marlins

Randy McMichael, former Miami Dolphins Rookie 2002

Jackie Johnson, formerly of WSVN 7

Many more in private collections not listed for privacy

Artwork donated or auctioned by these organizations:

The Florida Marlins Community Foundation - 2002 Dinner on the Diamond Event Benefiting the Daily Bread Food Bank and Camillus House

Miami Dolphins Foundation - Charity Events

American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief

Exhibitions and Shows Include:

Works! presented by the University of Miami • James L. Knight International Center • November 2006 to March 2008 at the Downtown Miami Hyatt Regency Hotel Gallery

January 2005 - The Board of Directors and staff of Miami-Dade Cable TAP Television, selected Baseball on Canvas for 6 Sports/Art Television Shows which aired from April 2005 thru January 2006

Miami Dolphins Dol-Fanfest • Dolphin Stadium • 2004

Roger Dean Stadium • Spring Training 2004 • Florida Marlins & St. Louis Cardinals

Miami Dolphins Pre-Season • Dolphin Stadium • August 2003

Miami Dolphins Dol-Fanfest • Dolphin Stadium • May 3, 2003

West Perrine Heritage Festival • April 2003

Gallerie Luministe - Thomas Kinkade Gallery • Bayside, Miami • Collection featured from February 2002 to August 2002

Urgency Emerging Emergency • Art Basel December 2002 • Administrator