

# SPORTFOLIO

It's been awhile since a visit to the stadium was accessorized by nothing more than a dog and a beer. Posh bistros and interactive gaming areas were a start, but these days, teams are turning up the cultural heat with some highbrow browsing. Fine art in the arena? That's right, you lughead. Try not to deface it with your foam finger.

-DALE BRAUNER

"It's a different experience painting in front of 1,200 New Jersey construction workers or listening to a fire alarm test for three straight hours as you try to paint a giant nose on a hockey player. It challenges your creative focus."

-TOM MOSSER

**1. COWBOYS STADIUM, ARLINGTON** As part of his Cowboys Art Program, Jerry Jones commissioned 14 contemporary pieces by renowned artists to hang in his new Colosseum. "My piece came on TV during the home opener," says Gary Simmons, referring to his Blue Field Explosions installation. "Within 30 seconds, I'd gotten a ton of texts and tweets. You don't get that kind of response if your stuff is hanging in a museum."



**2. PRUDENTIAL CENTER, NEWARK** The main draw at the Devils' art-laced home is a 200'x30' painting dubbed The Mural. Pittsburgh-based Tom Mosser finished the mammoth depiction of Devils and Seton Hall sports history in six weeks by using his ambidextrous impressionism technique. Yes, he painted with both hands at once.



**3. CONSOL ENERGY CENTER, PITTSBURGH** The Penguins hired Oakland-based artist Walter Hood to fancy up

their new joint, and his Curtain Call—a 15-foot-tall, stainless steel drape embedded with thousands of color photos—will grace the walkway to the arena when it opens, in 2010.



**4. LAND SHARK STADIUM, MIAMI** The murals of internationally renowned Romero Britto spice up the stadium's helixes and entrances, and more are planned for the future. Says Dolphins majority owner Stephen Ross, "Britto's art is unequalled and representative of our diverse region. It's a perfect fit for us."

"Curtain Call celebrates the people who lived and worked in the Hill neighborhood. I'm hoping fans experience it as a sculpture that inspires them."

-WALTER HOOD



**GOOD WITH FIG**

As any keeper of one of the 33 attest, nothing says "howdy" lo