

David Lee Cardenas  
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## **Experience**

### **2006 – Present**

Self-employed artist, all aspects of many mediums, including, but not limited to:

High end murals  
Custom signs & graphics  
High end airbrushing  
Automotive freehand pinstriping  
Logo design & Illustration  
Customer Consultation

### **2003 – 2006**

Pitbull Motorcycle Co.  
Paint shop Manager  
Customer Consultant, designed and applied all custom paint work.

### **1999 - 2003**

American Ironhorse Motorcycle Co.  
Airbrush Supervisor  
Scheduled and prioritized jobs, trained employees on technique and application, performed “one-off” custom paint jobs, designed new paint jobs for forthcoming model years, customer consultant.

### **1998 - 1999**

Deanos Custom Paint  
Production airbrush artist and pinstriper.

### **1986 - 1998**

Self Employed/contract sign painter  
Joe Gerard Signs & Graphics  
Denman Signs & Graphics  
Sunsign Graphics  
Signmart  
Motivational Systems Inc.

**Special Skills:**

Extensive knowledge in automotive paint finishing.

Extensive knowledge in sign design and fabrication

Extensive knowledge in design, layout and illustration.

Exceptional airbrush artist.

Exceptional hand lettering skills.

Exceptional freehand pinstriping skills.

Award winning automotive painter/artist.

Work has been featured in many magazines.

Fine artist

I have been doing art for as long as I can remember. My Father was a sign painter and taught me how to hand letter when I was in my early teens, leading to a career working as a signpainter for many years as a young adult.

I have since mastered the airbrush as well as the art of freehand pinstriping and I have made a name for myself in the custom automotive paint industry.

I have expanded my skillset to include fine arts, ie: oil and acrylic paintings, as well as furniture refinishing and airbrush body painting.

My website is extensive and is available to view at [davidleeart.com](http://davidleeart.com)

## Artist Bio

My name is David Cardenas and I am 52 years old. I was born in Orange, Ca. in 1966.

My father was signpainter and he taught me the trade when I was just a kid. I was always into art and old cars, and, and through a natural progression, I found a way to merge my interests by lettering and airbrushing vehicles, which I did until my early twenties. I had always felt my talents were not being utilized to their fullest extent. I had always wanted to get into the real high end custom stuff, so I moved to Arizona and started working for Titan motorcycles. There, I learned the basics of custom paint and how a paint shop operates.

For the next twenty years or so, it was kind of a whirlwind career. I was going from state to state, wherever I was needed, airbrush in hand, ready to create the next rolling piece of art. Motorcycles, hot rods, trucks, boats, helmets...you name it, I probably painted it. Then, after a couple year stint in Texas working for American Ironhorse Motorcycles, I found my way to Florida. I immediately fell in love with this place and moved here shortly after my first visit.

I worked for Pitbull motorcycles for a number of years out of Orlando, FL. When that company started to lose ground, I was approached by one of the owners who asked me if I was interested in moving to Sarasota and starting a custom chopper shop. I said yes, and Diablo Custom bikes was born.

That lasted about two years. The economy tanked, the business failed and the owner of Diablo moved back to Orlando.

I was left here alone, so I decided to make the best of it. I already had a name in the motorcycle industry as a top-notch painter from my past experience, so I built upon that and made a decent living doing custom paint and repair work for private citizens, local shops and a local Harley-Davidson dealership.

Fast forward to 2013...I was diagnosed with a hereditary heart condition that almost killed me. One day I was spraying clear on some motorcycle parts, and the next, I was being prepped for life saving, emergency double bypass surgery. LITERALLY.

I got very lucky and I was given a second chance at life. They say life comes full circle, and in my case, it did. During my recovery, I decided to get out of the high stress environment of the custom paint industry and go back to what my dad taught me so many years ago...signpainting. It is a lost art and is one of the truly great, 100% pure American art forms. I am proud to follow in my Pops' footsteps and I know if he were still here today, he would be very proud of what I have accomplished in my life so far.

So over the last few years, I have concentrated my efforts on signs and mural painting, though I still do custom work on bikes and hot rods from time to time.

I live in, what is my opinion, the most beautiful state in the nation. I work for myself, I work outdoors most of the time and I am lucky enough to be able to make a living creating artwork for others to see, enjoy and be a part of.