

# Mystery solved: Artist, art reunited

BY TODD C. ELLIOTT  
AMERICAN PRESS

Melissa Mae Crawford, 32, said she never thought her art would wind up in a trash bin or on the front page of the *American Press*.

The painting was the focus

of a mystery that began with its recovery from the bin by a local businessman. His curiosity led to local news coverage, which resulted in that mystery being solved and the reunion of the art with its artist.

## From treasure to trash

"I have a small car, and I brought the painting to enter it into the downtown Lake Charles Artwalk," Crawford said. "I didn't want to bring it back to Texas because it was so hard to fit in my car. So, I left it with my dad."

Crawford described her father as a "nonhoarder" and "compulsive junker," who every few months cleans out his house by getting rid of perfectly good items.

She said that her father's "spring-cleaning-on-a-whim" resulted in her artwork

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Melissa Mae Crawford, a former Lake Charles resident who now lives in Texas, is the artist who created the painting of the late Pink Floyd singer Syd Barrett that was recovered from a downtown Lake Charles trash bin.