

Homeless artist tells what makes Ronnie run

By MARK HEDIN

RONNIE GOODMAN'S acrylic-and-collage painting, "Self Portrait: Mid-Market 2014" netted more than \$15,000 for Hospitality House at a July raffle held in conjunction with the San Francisco Marathon.

Goodman, who participated in the 2nd Half S.F. Marathon that month and finished the 13-mile course in 1:43:34, gave many people a new perspective on homelessness when he was profiled in a story by Kevin Fagan, of the San Francisco Chronicle.

"We're super proud of him," Daniel Hlad, Hospitality House development director, said. Goodman's story "challenged a lot of stereotypes about the homeless community."

Goodman, 54, has been clean since 2003. He spends his time training — he told *The Extra* he's running 25-30 miles a week as he gears up for the San Francisco Giant Race Half Marathon Sept. 7. He also helps manage an art studio at 440 Haight St.; for that he gets to use the studio.

He's been living in a tent under 101 for three years. "I'm on the list at the mayor's Office of Housing right now," he said. "I don't have a number yet; they just told me it's gonna be a while. Section 8 is gonna be a while too. I'm just trying to get into housing as soon as I can."

He's lived in SROs before, he said, but this time, "SROs didn't work for me



PHOTO NICH KERRY

"I try to capture images that really resonate with me," Ronnie Goodman says of his "Self Portrait: Mid-Market 2014." "When I saw this guy playing, he had this look on his face like he was enjoying what he's doing, like me when I'm running."

because I didn't want to be in an area that might jeopardize my sobriety. I used to live in those areas a lot."

Hlad said there are other parties who've taken an interest in Goodman's situation and are also looking into what they can do to help.

Goodman has a linocut piece, "Man at Work," an image of a recycler, currently on display at Yerba Buena Arts Center's Bay Area Now 7 show, through its partnership with the San Quentin Prison Arts Project. Goodman told *The Chronicle* he did 8½ years for burglary — five at San Quentin, two at Folsom, the rest in S.F. County Jail—and is working with the public library

on plans for a show at the Main Branch in May.

He's also contributed artwork for publication in the *Street Sheet* and his 2-foot by 6-foot linocut, "The Three Apostles of Jazz," featuring Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Dizzy Gillespie, will be offered at the Homeless Coalition's benefit art auction at SoMarts Gallery on Sept. 11. (See his web site, ronnie-goodman.com, for more about him and his work.)

As for making Hospitality House his choice as beneficiary of his work with the Marathon, he said, "I still work with them. I'm still part of the program. I went with them," he said, because it's

"a good, positive and healthy environment. It connects with the homeless, helps you out with art supplies and reaches out to the community with counseling and help. I really enjoy being in Hospitality House because of that."

"There's two things that I love," he said. "Running and creating art." The experience of being able to work with Hospitality House and the San Francisco Marathon, "was a marriage of two things at one time: my work as an artist and running as a way to connect with my spirituality. It was much better than everybody's expectations." ■

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