

JAYE-LYNN NUNEZ has always had a love of art and color blending. Nine years ago, she put this passion into practice and began taking art and faux-finishing classes to become a certified decorative painter. Upon completion, she opened Royal Illusions Faux Finishes, a professional source for decorative painting and plaster, serving both the northshore and the greater New Orleans area.

"I grew up in St. Bernard Parish, but, since Katrina, I have relocated to the northshore," she says. "Since the majority of my business has always been north of the lake, the move has been one of convenience for my customers and me."

In addition to being the owner of



Left: The fireplace at Nonna's Italian Bakery and Caffè.

Below left: This Covington home's dining room features a gold-antiqued medallion, stone-textured walls and an old-world cloud ceiling.

Below: Jaye-Lynn Nunez.

Bottom: A cloudy-blend dome with gold leaf molding.

Jaye-Lynn Nunez

Royal Illusions Faux Finishes



Royal Illusions, Jaye-Lynn is also the painting contractor; she does all the work herself, by hand. To keep current on brand-new techniques and finishes, she takes classes once a year. After seven years of customizing colors and creating one-of-a-kind faux finishes in homes and businesses, she has produced some beautiful trompe l'oeil effects for ceilings, columns, fireplaces, mantles, cabinetry and moldings, many of which can be seen on her website, www.royalillusions.net.

Jaye-Lynn also specializes in gold and silver gilding, marbleizing, antiquing and wood graining. She says, however, that her favorite effect is "distressed, broken plaster with faux-textured brick. It gives you a feeling of being in an old New Orleans courtyard without having to step outside your home."

In addition to her business, Jaye-Lynn is very committed to volunteering her time to non-profits such as Hospice House and the Junior League. She worked on the Extreme Makeover show that featured the First Emanuel Baptist Church of New Orleans for its Katrina Edition. "I was asked to marbleize twelve 18-foot columns within two days. Inside, the church was chaos, with the amount of people working to get their jobs completed. But, by our Saturday deadline, everything came together beautifully. I was blessed to have been a part of that experience, and it is one I'll never forget."

Jaye-Lynn Nunez can be reached at Royal Illusions Faux Finishes, telephone 504-915-1457. www.royalillusions.net

