One does not need to search for Demourelle’s artwork in galleries just drive along the streets of Breaux Bridge. His use of brilliant colors and his display of a vivid imagination are proof of his artistic mastery. He has transformed the exteriors of aging, weathered storefronts into lively, colorful works of art. Most often, the paintings depict scenes that are unique to this area.

An example of this includes the portrayal of a crawfisherman who is working intently on emptying his harvest of crawfish from the traps. The detail work is especially displayed in the elderly fisherman's weather-beaten face. One can almost feel the warmth and texture of his brightly colored plaid shirt.

Commissioned to do a billboard in the heart of Breaux Bridge's business district to honor a bygone Crawfish Festival, Demo created a feisty-looking crawfish on a billboard above a collection of stores.

The bright red crustacean still remains there as though it has sovereignty over the town, keeping its regal claws raised to serve as welcome for incoming traffic.

Demo says his artistic talent developed in his high school days when, as a teenager, he had the opportunity to work for a leading advertising agency. It was at this agency that Demourelle began his apprenticeship as a lettering sign painter.

This start was made possible by the referral of his high school art teacher. Working with a successful artist at the agency, Demourelle learned much about art techniques.

"That man taught me how to appreciate the different things in life," he said. I also learned that when you study art, it makes you more aware of things around you. Those are some of the things that many people normally take for granted."

Over the years, Demourelle has learned how to observe both animate and inanimate objects, thus developing an acute sense of perception. Of observing humans, he says, "You'll know a lot about a person just by studying his face."

The artist explained that in studying the human art form, there are several steps to be used in recreating the image of human anatomy onto canvas. One also has to be knowledgeable about bone and muscle structure in order to create a successful portrayal.

Once the basic bone and muscle outlines are made, then the flesh is painted. Afterward, the canvas figure has clothing applied. With many years of practice, Demourelle has mastered numerous techniques for producing successful portraits.

"One way of creating an accurate portrayal is to get to know the person beforehand," he said. "You can get a feel for him or her by observing the facial expressions and mannerisms. If you 'see' meanness or compassion, then that's what you paint onto the canvas."

One aspect of this man's personality is what many call his "rashness" or taste for the unusual, so well displayed in his collection of wonderfully crafted handmade toys. If the North Pole were to run out of toys, Santa might find haven in Demourelle's toy workshop.

Upon the shelves are numerous ingeniously devised toys which could compose a child's paradise. In his workshop, one can easily locate a unique product of his never-ending imagination — a milking stool. This particular invention is not, however, used for milking cows, but is a simple wooden stool with an attached configuration resembling a cow's udders.

The artist also has a wonderful knack for using effective, eye-catching advertising gimmicks. He told of how he applied different watercolor paints to several cows that were grazing in a pasture. Adding a company's logo onto each animal's flanks resulted in a great degree of attention from the local public. "I couldn't resist the temptation to take advantage of this inexpensive promotion site with a high rate of traffic," he said.

Another contributing factor to his creative development included his military tour of duty in the Greek islands several years ago. "I've always wanted to travel and learn about the places I studied in my high school geography classes," he said. Memories of those Greek experiences are depicted on one of the walls in his home; an exquisite pencil sketch of an ancient wooden sailing vessel serves as a reminder of that historical country.

He is currently painting other murals in his house, including the one with the giraffe (shown in the color picture). Demourelle's home has other interesting items, many of which are the transformation of leftover materials — what other people might call garbage — into useful, unique pieces.

One example is the sensual portrayal of a woman painted onto a large section of ginko wood. He told of how he salvaged this richly-textured piece of wood from a neighbor's rubbish pile.

"Ginko wood is in itself very interesting because its use dates back to the ancient Oriental," he said. As time goes on, Demourelle says he will probably continue making his artistic mark in this corner of the world; his "art gallery" might then be found all along the storefronts and billboards of Breaux Bridge and neighboring communities.

His trademark is easily identifiable on his pieces of "object d'art." A fleur-de-lis accompanied by the logo, "Demo Signs," is the mark made by this truly creative man.