



Art is truly a way of life for Michael Ostaski, a man whose life is an evolving work of art. From the home and art studio he custom-designed and built near Santa Fe, to his now legendary treks across the country in the 70s and 80s in his hand-built “land yacht,” creating and teaching his art, everything Ostaski does is informed and inspired by his love of freedom, and his eternal quest for beauty. He’s an American original, through and through.

Growing up in an artistic family, Ostaski developed his passion for painting at an early age. His mother was a mural artist in Southern California, where he grew up. His father, an accomplished artist in his own right, and a twenty-year staff artist for a trade magazine, was also a celebrated magician and member of the famed “Magic Castle,” where a young Michael met such legends as Blackstone, and Siegfried and Roy.

That magic must have rubbed off on Ostaski, as his passion for beauty, and his unique gift for making the most of every moment drove him to the creation of his most inspired work yet: Art Explosion—a one-of-a-kind “studio on stage.” Given free reign in a performance art environment has meant an unprecedented unleashing of Ostaski’s innate talents, creating his portraits in just minutes, to the awe and amazement of his audiences with stunning, much larger-than-life results. “Each painting is a challenge,” he says. “When I start a portrait, paint seems to be flying everywhere, and no one knows what’s happening. But it’s all part of getting into the creative space. There’s a point in the process where it all flows, becomes timeless; even though in the back of my head a voice is counting down—only two minutes left, only one minute left. That’s the pressure I thrive on. Then it’s done.”

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## Michael Ostaski

### Speech Topics

- ☐ Musician
- ☐ Humor
- ☐ Entertainment

