



## inspired vegetables

PATRICK LO CICERO, ARTIST  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD BARNES

“I took the idea of a still life painting and extended it large scale in the funk tradition,” explains San Francisco artist Patrick LoCicero. Normally known as a visual artist rather than a designer, LoCicero tackled his kitchen commission with relish, using vegetables for inspira-



tion. The owner of the Presidio Heights kitchen saw LoCicero's one-man show at the Janet Steinberg Gallery in San Francisco, liked his work, and asked him to revitalize her kitchen.

The first thing LoCicero did was to give himself a canvas to work with, so the entire kitchen was painted white. Then, after the manner of Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, he used stencils, words, and real life objects to get his message across.

"I didn't want it to be too garish, since I knew she (the owner) would be there at seven in the morning sipping tea," says LoCicero, who nevertheless came up with some fairly dramatic images.

A 10-foot ladder was erected horizontally above a bank of kitchen cupboards, and LoCicero painted vegetables and stenciled letters

between the rungs. A huge celery stick hovers above the stove, while a bunch of ripe tomatoes reaches onto the ceiling. Painted cherries adorn the area around the phone, emulating wallpaper. The kitchen table has salad greens with their stems winding round the table leg to take root in the floor, while three stark asparagus spears seem ripe for picking.

"I approached each area of the kitchen as a separate painting, treating certain sections like the edge of a canvas," explains LoCicero, who is pleased with "his installation" and admits he wouldn't mind doing something similar again "like a wall in a nice restaurant."