



John Somic

PHOTO BY ROBERT FREAR

When he was seven years old, John Somic's father took him fishing for the first time, and when he tied an old-fashioned wooden lure to the end of his line he was hooked for life. Today, Somic can be found in his "fun factory" on South Higuera designing and constructing distinctive and whimsical larger than life fishing lure art.

He takes direction from the natural grains and imperfections of the reclaimed wood to guide him in his art and the final product receives a name according to its own unique personality. The "Higuera Hopper," a friendly looking oversized green grasshopper, is an especially popular one with visitors.

It takes about two months from start-to-finish to build a lure, but Somic says, "I never get tired - I'm in nirvana - it gives me a lot of joy to make people happy." And, it's been a particularly fertile period for the retired carpenter and life-long artist. "I've been a hōbbit since I've been here [in the new studio] and the energy to my art has been flowing like a river."

SLO LIFE

