



## patti i. cortez

DAVIE, FL

**what I do:** Mixed media

**why my space works for me:** I recently had to close my craft store, PIC, A Chocolate & Art Café, and move my studio back into my home. I loved my store—I called it sophisticated fun, as if Willy Wonka and Martha Stewart had decorated it together. But even though it was sad to close my store, what kept me going was the opportunity to create a new space. Still, how to take 400 square feet of stuff and squeeze it into the 200 square feet that used to be my formal dining room?

Everything got rearranged and traded. My daughter Kelsey gave up her old bookcases for new ones from the store—that wasn't too



difficult! And my husband built me a new worktable with a glass top and shelving. I gathered other pieces—from antique pieces to colorful painted furniture I had made for my—so my new studio is a story of my life. I use everything from nut shells to old cigar boxes to modern acrylic containers to hold my precious stuff. I call it organized madness, but the studio itself is a work of art and unique to the artist.



**my favorite thing:** What I call my "crazy ladies" are wooden santoses that I decorate with festive hats and jewelry as a reminder that art is fun. They were first in my home, then in the store, and now back home again. One wears a sign that says, "Chocolate...it's not just for breakfast anymore."



lluvpic.com  
studio dimensions: x x x

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