

 by Rachael Ann Mare

# To Eat or Not to Eat?



**"Woman on a Bridge"**  
by Sid Chidiac

What's your favorite thing to do with chocolate? Eat it? You might wonder, "What else would I do with it?" Some people say: "Create art with chocolate."

Painter Sid Chidiac uses a mixture of white chocolate and food coloring to paint brightly colored pictures. Chidiac says that people often want to taste his work. His chocolate paintings can be eaten, but he paints them to be looked at. He has to put up signs at his art shows that say, "No tasting."

Most painters, including Chidiac, paint on canvas. But Jean Wertz paints on chocolate. She pours hot melted chocolate into a mold with canvas on the bottom. The chocolate cools and hardens. Then Wertz removes the canvas, which leaves an imprint on the chocolate. She paints on her chocolate "canvas" with a mixture of alcohol and food coloring. She frames her paintings with more chocolate. She dusts the frame with edible gold dust. Wertz's chocolate paintings are edible. But she charges up to \$1,200 for each one. Would you eat something that costs that much?


**Prudence Emma Staite shows off her chocolate chandelier in one of her life-size chocolate rooms.**

Some artists want their chocolate creations to be eaten. Chocolatiers make all kinds of chocolate candies. They often make sculptures out of chocolate. They sell their sculptures for people to eat. One New York chocolatier makes chocolate telephones, body parts (such as life-sized legs), and seashells.

Prudence Emma Staite also wants her art to be eaten. She paints, sculpts, and makes jewelry out of



chocolate. She has made whole rooms of chocolate for art galleries. She likes it when people walk through her chocolate rooms and break off chunks to eat.

So for chocolate art, the question is . . . to eat or not to eat? You might want to savor it as a work of art. But it smells so good . . . you might not be able to resist nibbling at a corner. After all, chocolate is delicious, isn't it? 

**"Self Portrait with Fred and Truffle Hat"** by Jean Wertz



**Chocolate syrup has been used for blood in horror movies.**