



## Duncan Aviation Citation 560XLS Design Unveiled At Private Vernissage

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Duncan Aviation recently hosted a private unveiling, called a *vernissage* in the fine art world, of the exterior and interior completion of one of our company aircraft. The commissioned design was created by reknowned artist Nancy Friedemann Sánchez, a Columbian-American contemporary artist who has held exhibitions across the world and is based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her design was requested by Duncan Aviation Chairman Emeritus **J. Robert Duncan** and his wife **Karen** and brought to life on a company-owned Citation 560XLS through the craftsmanship of our talented aircraft experts.



### The Paint Design

Nancy's artwork draws heavily on things women would historically paint, like flowers, lace, and birds. After one of Nancy's art shows, Karen made the comment that it would be great to see some of those flowers on an aircraft, adding that she also liked Nancy's birds and was especially fond of ravens.

"Working on a commissioned art piece is quite different from expressing yourself in a piece for a personal show," Nancy says. "You want to please the client, so you really listen to their desires and preferences. This piece began as colonial flowers on black. Teri Nekuda helped tremendously with the application of the artwork to the aircraft. (With the required reflectant value on Citation aircraft), black couldn't happen. And because the canvas was an aircraft, we couldn't have a direct mirrorization of my work."

**Teri Nekuda**, Lead Designer, has been instrumental in designing Duncan Aviation's other unique exterior paint schemes, including an orange and yellow plaid Citation Mustang, an apple green Citation M2 with red, blue, and yellow paint splotches, and a red and black Learjet 35A that was nicknamed "Spiderman Lear." When Duncan Aviation purchased the 560XLS, she knew the team would be challenged to push the design envelope even further.

"Robert loves the wow factor," Teri says, "and this aircraft certainly provides that. It is definitely a conversation starter."

The design process took more than 12 months and Teri found it extremely satisfying to work on.

"It was a pleasure to collaborate with Nancy, and we had a lot of conversations about the colors and paint reflectant values, and how the artistic elements would conform with the angles and shapes of an aircraft, as well as how aviation regulations would affect the overall design."

### The Process

Nancy started with small sketches of the various elements and progressed to larger collages. Teri then scanned them and used computer design

software to overlay them on the aircraft. Together, Nancy, and Teri worked with Paint Master Specialists **Stacy Finch** and **Troy Reinke** and Paint Layout Specialist III **Justin Machacek** to refine and fine-tune the elements and painstakingly test them with a myriad of colors. Ultimately, they chose a base color of Medium Blue, a robin's-egg blue that Nancy says is vibrant and reminiscent of sky but doesn't detract from the flowers and other elements.

"We then went back to hand-drawing on the airplane," Nancy says. "I worked with Stacy, Troy, and Justin as they developed stencils for the various elements, and together we wrapped the flowers around the aircraft, adding vines and other pieces where they were needed to tie the elements together and create the proper movement. The team at Duncan Aviation is just marvelous. They are masters, and the finished product becomes a hybrid of all of the visions involved . . . But those are my flowers. They represent my work. It's me."



### Paint Layout

All in all, the aircraft design uses 23 specific aviation paint colors and completing the design required 101 rolls of painter's tape, 75 paint mixing cups, 135 cup liners, and 288 touch-up brushes. The artist's final 2D rendition was created with brush strokes on canvas.

Stacy explains, "We had to convert those brush strokes into solid paint colors that we could apply with spray. The aircraft was divided into



14 sections, and we had a team of six who would mask and unmask as needed to apply each color to the different areas. Since everything is covered, it was a challenge to remember where each color went. It's like working on a big puzzle."



### **The Interior**

The interior of the aircraft was in decent condition, but with such a unique paint scheme, it needed to better complement the exterior. The Duncan Aviation team kept the veneer and cabinetry but refurbished the headliner, the window panels, the lower sidewalls, the seats, and the carpeting. The interior sports strawberry- and cayenne-colored leather and includes intricate embroidery, including a special raven in honor of Karen. The aircraft's

unique carpet design has a cut pile with an abstract dropdown well and a design that is reminiscent of animal hide.

### **Special Thanks**

The aircraft was unveiled but has not yet delivered as the work on the G5000 flight deck is still under way. Since the date for the unveiling party was already set, work on the aircraft was suspended in order to make it available for the unveiling event.

"I would like to thank everyone who worked on NIKD to make it show-ready for the unveiling party," says Project Manager for the aircraft workscope **Ryan Oestmann**. "In addition to having it look great for the event, all of the team members who worked on the aircraft after paint was completed were discreet and did their best to keep its design a surprise for the majority of the unveiling attendees. Your extra care was greatly appreciated."

### **The Image**

Although the work done to the Citation XLS was kept as secret as

possible before its official unveiling in early November, it will not be secret for long. The goal for Karen and Robert was to make a statement.

"It's a flying, traveling billboard that catches people's attention and shows them that Duncan Aviation is different," Robert says. "It is a great way to share our innovation and creativity as a company, the talent of our team members, and the quality of our workmanship. It has been fun to work on. People are either going to love it, or they're going to hate it. There will be no middle ground. But everyone will talk about it."

Ryan says the aircraft is representative of what is possible through the teamwork and innovation of Duncan Aviation team members.

"Personally, I love it," Ryan says. "That Robert and Karen were able to take their passions for fine art and flying and combine them into a spectacular showpiece is nothing short of amazing." 

