

Ruby, the Elephant Artist

Ruby, a 7 _____ old elephant from Thailand, came to the Phoenix Zoo in 1974. She was the _____ elephant at the zoo. Her roommates were some chickens and a goat.

Ruby was very _____. She had no elephants around her. She was given food and everything she _____, so she had nothing to do. When staff at the zoo _____ her scratching in the dirt with a stick, they had an idea. They gave her a paint brush and some _____.

With just a little bit of help _____ her trainer, Ruby became a painter with her own style. She produced many paintings. Her most expensive painting sold for \$25,000.

Elephants have the brains to _____ how to paint. But, just like people, not all elephants have the interest or talent to turn it into a "career." Ruby was one of the few who did.

Ruby's painting _____ to a stop in 1998 when she died from an infection. She was only 25 years old.

There are very few elephant _____ left in North America. In Asia, there are programs trying to develop elephant artists. The money earned from the sale of their art goes _____ protecting wild elephants.