Some art is sultry, while other pieces are smoky
For the latter, artist uses a torch to create his realistic images

Dennis Lee Mitchell says he likes the element of chance in creating his pictures with a torch.

by Mark Jenkins

A quick glance around Dennis Lee Mitchell's studio at his house here in Maryland reveals an array of objects that might not belong in the same place: a mix of oil paintings, photographs, and sculptures. The studio is filled with materials and tools, including torches, brushes, and papers. Mitchell, who is known for his realistic paintings, has been working on a series of torch-lit portraits, which he describes as "smoky" and "sultry." He uses a blowtorch to add depth and texture to his work, creating a sense of movement and excitement.

"I'm interested in the idea of the unexpected," Mitchell said. "The torch adds a sense of energy and mystery to the paintings. It's like a sort of alchemy, where the materials react with each other in unexpected ways.

The torch is a powerful tool, and I use it to create a sense of atmosphere and emotion in my work. I like the way the light and heat interact with the materials, creating unexpected results. It's like painting with fire.

I've been using the torch for about five years now, and I've found that it's a great way to add depth and texture to my work. It's a bit like sculpting with light and heat, and I've found that it's a great way to create a sense of movement and excitement in my work.

I use a variety of materials in my work, including oils, acrylics, and papers. I like the way the different materials react with each other, creating unexpected results. It's like painting with fire.