

## Robusta' Prickly Pear in Bloom by CARMEN BYERS



Desert Steel Metalworks, influenced by El Paso's Chihuahuan Desert inspire Carmen's prickly pear cactus metalworks. Carmen is a proud El Pasoan, raised in the lower valley. She does not consider herself an artist but loves to be creative. Carmen's background is in the construction industry, where she discovered the craft of welding. Welding became a past-time to relax which led to creative avenue of metalworks. Carmen's metalworks include plasma cut cactus prickly pear, and torched shaped Ocotillos. Her craft entails MIG welded using flex cored wire applications both alone and gas shielded to shape her desert steel Metalworks. Her desire to give back to the community, Carmen has served on the boards of the YWCA and currently El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

*Violin photographed by Carlos D. Luevano*