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## Everett gallery a showcase for art and artists

*An Everett couple are using their gallery to promote local artists.*

By Kristi O'Harran, Herald Columnist



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Submitted photo  
Josey Wise is an Everett artist and gallery owner.



Josey Wise didn't just dream about her future. She found a space in downtown Everett where she could showcase her vision.

"A lot of people say 'Wouldn't it be nice to open a gallery?' " she said. "We said we'd do it."

Her partner at **WiseDesignz Framing & Gallery** is her husband, Marc Wise, who works in the commercial title business. They opened their gallery in 2006.

"We got married during our first year in business, then she got pregnant in our second year in business, and had our baby girl during our third year," Marc Wise said. "All of this going on while working to build a true community marketplace."

They display fine art and consignment pieces for as many as 70 artists. The gift assortment the day I visited included purses made from Legos, magnetic doodads, painted glassware, scarves, vases, earrings and greeting cards.

"The art scene here is trying to showcase their work," Wise, 32, said. "There are so many artists in this area."

She moved here from Hamilton, Mont., in her late teens. Her own artwork was recognized when Wise was named Young Artist in October for the Everett Cultural Arts Commission 2010 Mayor's Arts Awards.

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Wise was instrumental with developing the Everett Art Walk that occurs the third Saturday of every month. She was part of the Everett Street Tunes piano project last summer, painting a piano with artist Liz Geiger Lund. This year they received a Monte Cristo Award for Neighborhood Friendly Business."

The window at the gallery is always inviting, said Maren Oates, who does marketing and special events for the **Arts Council of Snohomish County**.

"Josey Wise is a wonderful promoter of the arts in Everett and Snohomish County both as an artist and local business owner," Oates said. "Whether it's painting a public art piano, spreading the word about the Art Walk, or featuring new artists in her gallery, she has proven to be a true asset to the Everett arts community."

It took four years, but Wise is finally the featured artist this month in her own gallery.

“She focuses on everyone else,” her husband said. “She has always put other artists before her and given them an opportunity to showcase their talents.”

Modest to the hilt, Josey Wise didn’t even schedule herself to be the featured artist. The person planned to be on the main gallery wall this month had to back out, Wise said.

Her list of those she plans to highlight stretches out two years.

““We have hidden gems of artists around here,” Wise said. “Some are under the radar as well as up and coming.”

Her son was featured last year. Sid Jensen, a ninth-grader at Cascade High School, is accomplished in pen and ink.

“He likes comic, digital media,” Wise said. “He has a dark humor.”

He won the top prize at Emerson Elementary School for the PTA Reflections program when he was a fifth-grader.

Her oil paintings shown this month are colorful and expressive.

“Most are subtly abstracted floral or landscapes,” Wise said. “My technique tends to be fast and expressive. I like to paint in the moment, not overthink it. Loose brush strokes with vivid color.”

She is inspired by nature and light, shapes and colors of the outdoors, she said, but also simple things in the studio like books and brushes.

“I enjoy painting the contrast of light and dark. I love dramatic colors and shadows.”

She has a studio in their south Everett home. The family enjoys visiting galleries and art fairs.

Their baby, Saylor Blue, 2 1/2, has spent oodles of time at the store since she was four-weeks old.

“We call her a shop baby,” Wise said. “This is very much a mom and pop operation.”

Her husband is a hands-on partner at the gallery.

“I continually overhear customers or strangers mention their appreciation and gratitude towards my wife,” Marc Wise said. “I cannot explain how proud I am, or how special it is, to hear some of the

appreciation first hand.”

*Kristi O'Harran: 425-339-3451, oharran@heraldnet.com*

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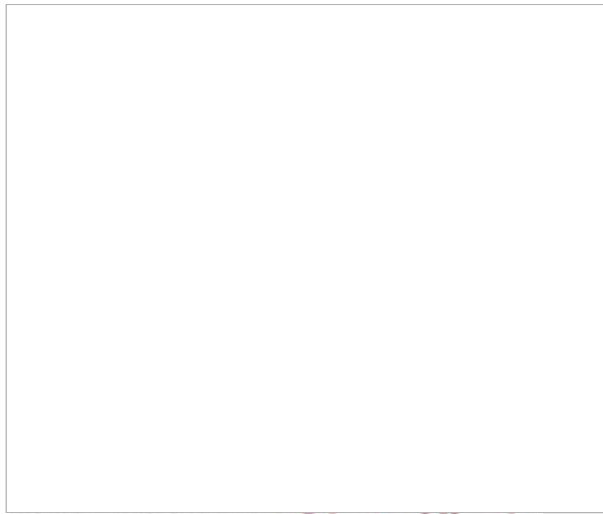


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