

Local business owner Stacy Ranieri to showcase her whimsical side at art exhibit on Nov. 3

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Stacy Ranieri surrounded by her whimsical artwork in her office at The Firefly Group.

PALM CITY — Anybody who walks the halls of The Firefly Group can't help but feel a surge of energy from the cheerful surroundings and vibrantly colored paintings that hang throughout the walls of the Palm City-based public relations and marketing firm. From landscapes and nature scenes to wild animals and whimsical women – the paintings complement and enhance the uplifting and creative atmosphere at the firm.

What makes these paintings even more interesting is that most of them are the creative handiwork of the Chief

Illuminator herself, Stacy Ranieri. When she isn't busy designing and implementing some very serious and comprehensive marketing and public outreach campaigns for a variety of clients, Ranieri can be found at Alizarin Crimson Studios tapping into her creative talent under the skilled tutelage of artist Georgia Abood.

"For me, painting is a form of meditation, a way of relaxing as my mind focuses on a single task. It's just me on my stool, with my brushes and palette, turning a white canvas into a creation that makes someone smile. There's no multi-tasking. I feel about painting the way some people feel about yoga," explained Ranieri.

In addition to paintings on display at The Firefly Group, much of her work resides in her own home as well as the homes of family and friends. She has also completed several commission pieces and frequently donates paintings to non-profit silent auctions.

After years of honing her artistic style, and with the encouragement of Abood, her teacher and artistic mentor, Stacy Ranieri will be showcasing her artwork during her "Wit and Whimsy Art Exhibit" on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Alizarin Crimson Studios in Stuart.

"I've been painting at Georgia's studio for eight years. When she asked me over the summer if I wanted to have my own show in the fall, I thought she was joking. I couldn't imagine anyone would actually want to see my work. But there's been a lot of positive feedback and interest so I'm really excited about sharing my paintings with the community," Ranieri added.

“Stacy has come a long way from when she first walked into my studio. She has definitely developed a signature style that is uniquely hers. That’s what being a real artist is all about. I’m looking forward to seeing people enjoy her style,” Abood said.

A selection of original pieces will be available for sale, with proceeds to benefit The Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County and Save the Chimps. For more information about the art exhibit or to view some of Stacy Ranieri’s artwork, visit www.facebook.com/ArtByStacyRanieri

About the Artist

Ranieri’s illuminated path began in Queens, N.Y. She attended New York University with plans to study art, but harsh early criticism of her portfolio made her put down her paint brushes and earn degrees in marketing & international business instead.

After many rewarding positions in her field she moved to Florida with her husband Rob and returned to school, earning a masters degree from Florida Institute of Technology in environmental resource management. As much as she enjoyed working in the corporate and non-profit worlds, Stacy ultimately went out on her own when she founded her public relations firm in 2003. As The Firefly Group grew, she created a work environment that included a mix of family, arts, environment, sustainability, creativity and positive community involvement as part of its core values.

When it was time for Ranieri to pick a name for her new company, it was easy. She chose Firefly because it reminded her of her summers at sleepaway camp in upstate New York where the glow of fireflies at night was always a special treat for the city girl. While the creature’s name could spark something happy and whimsical, it also conveys a serious side. A firefly’s glow is its form of communication and is key to its survival.

For more information about Firefly visit www.fireflyforyou.com or connect with them at www.facebook.com/TheFireflyGroup or www.twitter.com/FireflyGroupPR

About First Thursdays

First Thursday, Gallery Nights is the largest cooperative art partnership in Martin County history featuring local art galleries. This event is free to the public and spans gallery properties from Stuart to Jensen Beach. All locations will feature original art, some will provide refreshments, some will offer hands-on art experiences, and others will offer live music. For more info on First Thursdays, go to www.martinarts.org/news_events/first_thursday_gallery.html.