

Travel/Today

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PHOTOS BY GRAYSON HOFFMAN/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Stacy Ranieri, president of The Firefly Group public relations firm, works on her latest painting at the Alizarin Crimson Art Studio in Stuart. "Our goal at work is to tell other people's stories," Ranieri said. "When I am in the studio, I tell my own story through the arts, which is my way of expressing myself."

MARKETING HER ART

Local businesswoman shows artistic side at Stuart gallery

By Cathy S. Reeder

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

STUART — The initial First Thursday gallery show of the 2011-12 season features a name that's well-known in Martin County — but not as an artist.

Stacy Ranieri, a local businesswoman better known for marketing community causes and development projects, will headline her first gallery show and sale from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Alizarin Crimson Gallery and Studio in Stuart.

"Her business friends didn't know she had this side," said gallery owner and artist Georgia Abood, who has been teaching Ranieri for five years. "They're seeing her in a totally new light."

Abood said response to the show has been strong. "She's got a huge fan club, and she'll bring a different kind of cross-section than we usually get in the gallery."

Ranieri's show is titled "Wit & Whimsy" and her paintings are strong and bold and have a color scheme all her own.

"I started out painting more realistically," Ranieri said. "My own mom prefers more realistic paintings. But I finally started breaking through with these bolder colors after a while, and Georgia encouraged that, and it's what I really am comfortable with."



A signed work by Ranieri on display at the Alizarin Crimson Art Studio.

"Bright reds and oranges, yellows and greens and blues and purples — that's what I consider 'my palette,'" she said. "I tried to add muted colors for a while, and I didn't like it."

Ranieri applied to be an art major at New York University after high school, but was turned down, so she followed her

WIT & WHIMSY

The Art of Stacy Ranieri

What: Gallery showing; Also, Martin County Council for the Arts' First Thursday Gallery stop

When: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 3

Where: Alizarin Crimson Gallery & Studio, Cedar Point Plaza, 2611 E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: RSVP requested; call 772-287-7030

second choice and got a business degree instead.

"I was so disappointed, I stopped painting," she said. "I did take art history classes and I went to the wonderful art museums in New York City."

Ten years ago, her parents moved to Palm City, and brought her art supplies with them. Soon after, she started painting again.

It is something she does for herself, a way to recharge after a week of clients and helping her two children and husband. "It's the only time all week when I'm not multi-tasking," she said with a laugh.