

Marie Massey makes an impression with her painting

Artist's work is on display at Aims Community College in downtown Loveland

By **Kenneth Jessen** For the Reporter-Herald

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"Bucking the Trend" shows how artist Marie Massey uses color and shape. (Special to the Reporter-Herald/Marie Massey)

Marie Massey earned a bachelor's degree from University of California Berkley in political economy of industrial societies and a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University.

While living in California, she had her own company specializing in business development and marketing. About a decade ago, Massey made the transition into fine art.

Inspired by her European travels, Massey moved from a highly detail representational style to impressionism.

She has walked in the footsteps of the masters such as Pierre Renoir, Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne and others. She learned painting in layers and uses complementary color giving her work a vibrant look.

Her themes are classical -- buildings draped in colorful flowers, blossoms adorning a row pots or an adobe arch partially hidden by bushes and vines. This has produced a recognizable style where colors are bright.

Massey loves old windows and views through open doors that give her work depth.

Massey loves plein-air painting on location. She was quoted in Taos Magazine, "You have 360 degrees of information -- scale, contrasts, the size of things -- and see the whole versus the particular. I like to paint the big picture with the big idea."

She did her first painting as a little girl.

Her grandmother, an armature artist, encouraged her. Grandmother was also a gardener and put a rose on a table that Massey painted in watercolor. During the process of her education, she took art classes.

As a professional artist, Massey remembers one of her first sales. It was at the Benson Gallery in Fort Collins when she was as a member of the Artist's Association of Northern Colorado. She has produced about 1,000 paintings over the last decade.

Massey sells her work through a variety of galleries and is always looking for new outlets. One of her main galleries is Walden Fine Art in Taos, N.M., where her paintings are



Brilliant colors define Monet's lily pond by Marie Massey with a great deal of emphasis placed on its size with details taking the viewer's eye into the far distance. (Special to the Reporter-Herald/Marie Massey) (Photographer: Jafe Parsons www.j)

tailored toward Southwestern subjects. Her work can also be seen at Aims Community College in downtown Loveland.

She has enjoyed Internet sales from her own website. Commissions have made up part of Massey's business. Her portraits are not the traditional formal sittings, but rather reflect the subject's personal interests.

Massey and her family split their time between summers in Bellvue and winters in La Selva Beach, Calif.

Her website is MarieMassey.com and she can be reached at mm@MarieMassey.com.



Marie Massey s "Garden Nymph" reflects the American Southwest with an adobe arch framed in bright iris. (Special to the Reporter-Herald/Marie Massey) (Photographer: Jafe Parsons www.j)