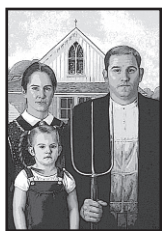


ART ADVENTURE | SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI



Make art a part of your life

(This is a republication of Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski's introductory column.)

When I was approached about doing an art article for the Star, I was both thrilled and terrified. Thrilled because I love art. It has been an integral part of my life. Terrified as I have never written a column and I suddenly remembered my high school English teacher who gave me an "F."

One other thought crossed my mind, how could my name fit on a column in the newspaper? Thanks to my parents, my name is probably the longest in the state of Indiana; my name is Samantha P.J. Emel Dalkilic-Miestowski. Please just call me Sam.

This column will cover many aspects of art including artists, collectors, galleries, students, schools, techniques, framing, books, interview and anything else that might be of interest to the readers.

The first column is designed to give you information about my gallery — The Steeple Gallery, Ltd., located in St. John, and me.

I am a native Texan who moved to Crown

Point while in grade school. I graduated from Merrillville High School and received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ball State University, with a specialty in sculpture. I was the only art major in the ROTC program at Ball State, and I think I was the first female art major who got her "jump wings" from Ft. Benning, Ga.

While in college, I interned in Chicago with John David Mooney, who is an internationally recognized artist.

After college, I was fortunate to travel and assist in opening galleries in Europe, and one of my photos was published in an art book.

A little later, I was among an international group of artists selected to tour Poland. One of my fondest memories is the months I spent in Provence in southern France studying art. Our school was housed in a town several hundred years old under the castle of the Marquis de Sade.

But enough about myself, let's talk about the gallery. The gallery was an operating Central Assembly of God Church when it was acquired. Records indicate the church was built in the 1950s. The church was totally renovated both inside and outside, including the landscaping, by my family and me.



Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski in her St. John studio.
— POST-TRIBUNE PHOTO

Though difficult to find the first time, the gallery is truly nestled in a naturally wooded area with wildlife very close by. Squirrels, muskrats, deer, snakes, birds, frogs, and an occasional bat have found the gallery.

The gallery has original fine art by artists both local and national. The 4,000 square-foot gallery houses watercolors, oils, engravings, lithographs, prints, glass art, sculpture, woodcuts, acrylics and weavings. Custom framing, and commissioned art pieces are a specialty of the gallery.

The gallery has the largest inventory of

antique prints in Northwest Indiana. These include botanical, animals, bird and fruit. The custom framing offered by the gallery can make the difference between a masterpiece and an average piece.

The gallery space can be leased for private functions such as corporate events and meetings, special celebrations, fundraisers and even small weddings.

The gallery welcomes the beginning art buyer as well as the experienced art collector.

Visitors to the gallery during the past several years have included children, truckers, professors, Harley riders, doctors, waitresses, teachers, Cub Scouts, seniors, art focus groups, high schools, elementary schools, tourists, dentists, home schoolers, dentists, and people looking for Boric Religious Supply also on Thiel Street.

In summary, the major milestones in my life include marriage, motherhood and opening The Steeple Gallery. With the gallery's opening in 1999, I began my transformation from a naive artist to a businesswoman. It's been a wonderful journey, with many supporting people and groups.

The journey is more fascinating every day. I consider this column another milestone.

I'm thrilled and excited with the opportunity to make art a part of everybody's life.

Contact Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski at samowner@sbcglobal.net, or (219) 365-1014 or visit www.thesteeplegallery.com.

Did you know?

You can receive 52 weeks of the Star mailed to your home every Thursday along with home delivery of the Sunday Post-Tribune for only

\$26
per year

CROWN POINT
CEDAR LAKE/LOWELL

STAR

Call Now: 219.663.4212

This offer is only available as a combination offer with the weekly Star and the Sunday edition of the Post-Tribune. Residents must be within the Post-Tribune local delivery area. Offer expires Dec. 31, 2010. This offer is also only available to people who have not subscribed to the Star within the last 90 days. Please allow 2 weeks for processing.