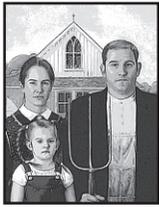


ART ADVENTURE | SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI



Artist brings Arabic influenced works to Northwest Indiana

Crown Point has a lot to offer those who visit "Fourth Friday Arts." In the summer of 2009 Schererville artist Samar Megdadi participated in the 4th Friday Arts Festival, hosted at Memory Keepers in Crown Point.

Megdadi was delighted to have been an exhibitor in the business, which featured



Megdadi

about a dozen of her original paintings, ceramics, and custom hand-painted and framed mirrors. Megdadi's original

art was also featured at The Avicenna Academy in Crown Point.

Coincidentally, her husband, pediatrician Zuhair Alsakaji, is well known in Crown Point. He practices at St. Anthony Medical Center as well as other hospitals in Northwest Indiana.

With four children and a pediatrician husband, I asked Megdadi how does she find time to create art. She simply stated, "Because I love it!"

Currently, Semar Megdadi's work is on display in a group show at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

The title of the exhibition is "Sabeel: Artistic Journeys from Arab Lands to America." It continues through May 24.

It is wonderful that this artist whose work was featured in a local business is also currently being featured at a university in Minnesota.

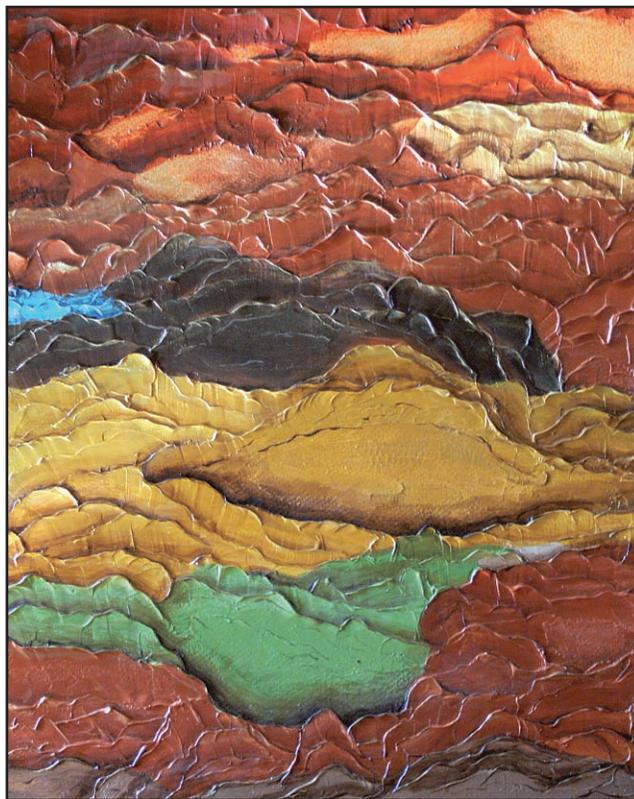
To view some of Semar Megdadi's work and to find out more about the exhibition, visit www.stthomas.edu/arthistory/exhibitions/exhibits/sabeel2010.

Megdadi's biography is included in the "Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists." It opens with a description of her art and its background:

"Samar Megdadi was born and grew up in Irbid, a city in northern Jordan. Before moving to the United States in 1995, Megdadi attended Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan and received her B.S.



This 2007 Islamic calligraphy in the Kufi style is comprised of six 8-by-10-inch works. — PHOTOS PROVIDED

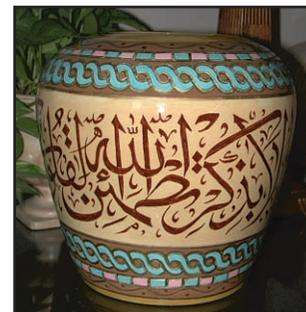


Samar Megdadi created this 24-by-36-inch acrylic painting on canvas in 2010.

degree in computer science. In 2003, she received her second B.S. in civil engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. After graduating from IIT, Megdadi worked at Delta Engineering as a bridge inspector where she inspected many

bridges on the south side of Chicago. Subsequently, Megdadi moved to a position at R.W. Armstrong as an environmental engineer.

"Megdadi is a self-taught artist who combines engineering and architectural knowledge with Arabic calligraphy, Islamic designs, and western techniques to create art pieces that are creative and unique."



This ceramic vase with Arabic calligraphy, created in 2005, measures 16-by-10 inches.

Megdadi paints in oil and acrylic, and does ceramics and Arabic calligraphy. "All of Megdadi's ceramic work, including vases, plates and boxes, are decorated with Arabic calligraphy and arabesque or geometric patterns,"

according to the biography, and she often uses verses from the Qur'an on them.

To see more of Megdadi's works, go online to www.megdadi.com or visit the Steeple Gallery.

Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski owns and operates The Steeple Gallery, 111107 Thiel St., St. John. E-mail your comments to samowner@sbcglobal.net or call 365-1014.

St. Anthony names Goletz new outpatient care coordinator

BY KITTY CONLEY
kconley@post-trib.com

CROWN POINT — Joan Goletz, who has spent 22 of her 38-year nursing career at St. Anthony Medical Center, is the new outpatient care coordinator for Working Well and Franciscan Point.

Goletz's promotion was announced last week by Tim Ross, regional director of occupational and employee health at St. Anthony. Goletz will split her duties between the main campus on Main Street and Franciscan Point on U.S. 231 at Interstate 65.

Goletz began working at St. Anthony in 1988. She worked in the emergency department for 12 years and for the last 10 years has been in the occupational medicine/employee health department.

After graduating from Ball State University in 1972 Goletz started her nursing career at St. Luke's Hospital in Marquette, Mich., in the orthopedic unit. She later worked at Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey, Ill., South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest, Ill., and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, now known as St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Center in Dyer.

Goletz is also the parish nurse at First United Methodist Church in Crown Point. Her hobbies are reading, playing in the bell choir at her church, gardening and ceramics.

Joan lives just outside of Crown Point with her husband, Mike. They have two married sons and a granddaughter.

Crown Point Fire Department paramedic Tim Tully applauded Goletz's promotion.

"I worked midnights with her when I first started when I was 19. She was always very



Joan Goletz splits her duties as outpatient care coordinator at St. Anthony Medical Center between the main campus and Franciscan Point.

"I worked midnights with her when I first started when I was 19. She was always very nice. She took a brand new guy that was afraid of his own shadow and helped me. I knew I could always go to her for help."

— TIM TULLY, Crown Point Fire Department paramedic on Joan Goletz's promotion

nice. She took a brand new guy that was afraid of his own shadow and helped me. I knew I could always go to her for help," Tully, division chief of special operations, said of his career start at St. Anthony.

"The first night I worked there it was a bad night. She was there. She is a very good person to work with. You can go to her with questions."

Tully said Goletz is a "great" nurse and teacher. "She helped me to grow."



1492 Main St.
Crown Point

Your Neighborhood
sponsor of
Time & Temp

663-0123