GUNN:

continued from page A1

her favorite pieces of art have been of people who had a significant, but indirect effect on her life. Hanging on the walls of her home are black and white portraits of musicians and President John F. Kennedy, whose sunglasses reflect newspaper clippings she received from her aunt.

"My aunt gave me the newspaper of when JFK was assassinated," she said. "I decided to use it in an art piece about him."

Gunn said public figures such as JFK, John Lennon and others who have tried to change the world through love have given her a new outlook on life and have inspired her to live the same way. She said they have also inspired her to step out of her comfort zone to experiment with different types of art as a way to change the world.

Gunn said she still uses art as a means to cope with particularly emotional points of her life, but she would like to share her skills with others by eventually offering art classes to people who suffer with post-traumatic stress disorder. She said, if creating art has helped her deal with particularly difficult moments in her life, it could also benefit others.

"It takes my mind off of whatever is going on in my life," she said. "I get lost in doing art. I lose track of time, and I zone in on what I'm creating. If it has helped me, it can help other people too."

Gunn said she follows a specific process when creating an image. She said she usually starts with a photograph or image that she has taken herself or from another source. She said she then

projects the picture onto a canvas or other medium using an overhead projector and sketches out a contour image. She then slowly starts to shade in the image using a variety of shades and art tools.

Gunn said she creates the majority of her portraits and art pieces using primarily black and white pigments and shades. She said she has done about 50 to 60 pieces, and only eight or so have color incorporated, though it is something she is trying to incorporate more.

"T've been trying to step out of my comfort zone and use more color," she said. "Slowly, I'm getting there."

Gunn said seeing the appreciation and joy her artwork gives others is what she enjoys most about presenting her paintings to others.

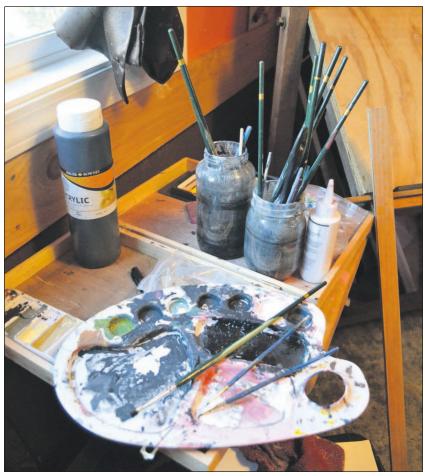
"I like giving people artwork because it touches them more than it would if I bought them something," she said.

People can find examples of Gunn's work on Instagram by searching #samanthagunnart. For those interested in commissioning pieces from Gunn, they can contact her at uriahs sky@hotmail.com.

Gunn said prices range on her paintings, depending on how much time they require and how large they are. She said an 18-by-20-inch piece may cost about \$165. Larger portraits, such as her JFK painting, may cost upwards of \$350.

Gunn said December was pretty busy as she finished five pieces for others, but she is open to taking commissions from anyone.

"I'm really just getting started with this," she said. "It is exciting. I am so happy that people are liking what I've been doing."



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS

Hermiston resident Samantha Gunn said she uses a variety of brushes and other tools to create her realistic portraits.



Hermiston artist Samantha Gunn, right, takes a break from painting to feed her pet pot-belly pig and two dogs Thursday afternoon with the help of her boyfriend, Spencer Jacks.



Hermiston resident Samantha Gunn is a far of art of all kinds. Her body even features some of her favorite art in the form of tattoos.



Portraits and paintings line the walls of artist Samantha Gunn's home.







hot seat drawings.

and main session at 2:30pm.