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Lindsay Sauvé

It's difficult for Debbie Berrow and husband Reed Grossnicklaus

to separate business and pleasure because they're often the same thing. Berrow and Grossnicklaus own and run Bell Pine Art Farm, a family-oriented business that incorporates their love of art, nature and spirituality.

Berrow began making her clay goddess sculptures in 1986 as an art student at Oregon State University, selling locally at fairs and stores in Corvallis and Eugene. With the help of Grossnicklaus, a 1990 University MFA graduate, the business has grown considerably, delivering nationwide. The sculptures have even reached a few stores in Britain and Australia.

Both Berrow and Grossnicklaus said they feel fortunate that the growth of their business has allowed them to work from their home in Creswell and be near their two children.

"My original goal was to teach, but I prefer this lifestyle," Grossnicklaus said. "There is a lot of privacy and solitude. The quality of life here is really unique.'

> "Many of the goddesses are about women's spirituality and symbolize the processes women experience in life."

> > **Debbie Berrow** Bell Pine Art Farm owner

Each hand-decorated, naturally stained sculpture carries special and significance. Berrow's first figurine was the mother goddess, which is meant to remind people of their connection with the Earth. Over the years, Bell Pine has introduced other characters, many of which represent experiences in the couple's life together and the process of having and raising children. Some ideas have even come from friends ular figurines to represent changes

"Many of the goddesses are about women's spirituality and symbolize the processes women experience in life," Berrow said.

Bell Pine Art Farm owners Debbie

Berrow and Reed Grossnicklaus produce goddess

figurines from their home in Creswell

in a family-oriented

environment.

"My original goal was to teach, but I prefer this lifestyle. There is a lot of privacy and solitude. The quality of life here is really unique."

> Reed Grossnicklaus Bell Pine Art Farm owner

Now, Bell Pine Art Farm sells about 30 different figurines, and has attracted customers who collect them as a series. Berrow said an appropriate figurine for college students is the "Release" goddess, which represents change and passage into a new phase of life.

Berrow said she enjoys running Bell Pine because it has allowed her to learn the ins and outs of the world of business but still remain an artist at heart.

Businesses across the nation now carry the sculptures, but one of the first was Ruby Chasm on West Fifth Avenue in Eugene. Owner Molly Beauchamp said she began carrying them 15 years ago. There is a sculpture for every type of person, she added.

"They're visual reminders of the life cycle," Beauchamp said. "I love the 'Self Blessing.' It's about taking time to remind us we have to care for ourselves.

While the family plays an important role in running the business, Berrow said they hire employees to help work busy times such as the Christmas rush. Some of their employees have been University art students, which has brought a lot of diversity to their studio.

"We've worked with people from all over the world," she said.

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailyemerald.com.

Farm sells natural art

Debbie Berrow and Reed Grossnicklaus work from home, creating figurines that represent life's experiences

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