

ARTIST BECOMES HIS TRUEST SELF

Italian-born Oscar de'Masi opens Astoria studio and gallery



Oscar de'Masi's 'Out of the Storm.'

COURTESY OSCAR DE'MASI

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

When Oscar de'Masi was 15, his father moved their family from Italy to New York City. The relocation was traumatic enough to curtail de'Masi's artistry for nearly four and a half decades.

It wasn't until four years ago that de'Masi, who recently opened a studio and gallery at 395 11th St. in Astoria, felt ready to re-embrace his passion for oil painting.

"If I wasn't happy, or at least content, I wouldn't be able to paint," de'Masi, 62, said.

From the time he was an 8-year-old student at a Catholic school in Naples until he was 15, de'Masi produced oil paintings with varied subject matter. Because the school exhibited and sold the works at art shows,

Continued on Page 14