



Photos by Alyssa Evans

Oscar de' Masi and some of his newest paintings.

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“We were a little off the beaten path for about a year-and-a-half. The gallery was marvelous and we loved it but this new location will give us better visibility.”

Patricia de' Masi runs the gallery, which solely features Oscar de' Masi's work. The gallery's previous location included a studio but the de' Masi's have moved Oscar's studio to a private location.

“I don't paint anything unless there's a reason to it,” Oscar de' Masi said. “There needs to be passion in it for me.”

The de' Masi's decided to find a new gallery location after the 2019 Astoria Sunday Market season ended. Throughout the season, the couple realized “people really like my art,” Oscar said.

Oscar de' Masi's art features both local and international scenes. Throughout the gallery are images of key Astoria landmarks, as well as those of New York City and Italy. Many of the images related to Oscar de' Masi's life — he's lived in all three locations.

“The whole point is to get my art out there,” Oscar de' Masi said. “Painting is a form of immortality.”

Other images inside the gallery include a series focused on rain, and another featuring Little Red Riding Hood.

Luminari Arts

Almost next door to de' Masi's new stu-

dio is part-shop and part-gallery Luminari Arts, located at 1133 Commercial St. Luminari Arts will relocate and open an expanded shop on Valentine's Day at 1196 Duane St. Luminari's new location is the former Astoria Fiber Arts Studio workspace.

“When we started, the shop was pretty empty,” said co-owner Charlotte Bruhn. “Now we've outgrown this space. That's why we're expanding.”

Bruhn, who is an artist, opened Luminari Arts with co-owners Diane Jackson and Dale Clark in 2014. Bruhn's work is on display at RiverSea Gallery, and features ceramic pieces.

The move will create more room for products like arts and crafts supplies, and locally-made jewelry, Bruhn said. The new store will also create more room to showcase local artists.

“We couldn't have done this if we didn't have great customers,” Bruhn said. “This is a major investment for us.”

Because of the time it's taken to pack and plan for the new location, Luminari Arts hasn't been able to participate in the January and February art walks, Bruhn said. The store will make its return to the art walk map in April.

The art walk will coincide with the venue's grand opening event and sixth anniversary. A soft opening will be held during Valentine's Day weekend.

“We're super excited,” Bruhn said. “We can't wait to get started.”



Luminari Arts co-owners Diane Jackson, left, and Charlotte Bruhn.



Retailer Luminari Arts will open at 1196 Duane St. on Valentine's Day.