

# ARTIST FINDS INSPIRATION ON COAST AND NEW ZEALAND

BY MORGAN GRINDY

Just married, artist Marie Powell and her husband, Randy, grabbed their bicycles, hopped on a plane and set off for a bike trip around New Zealand.

Little did they know that they would return to Whangarei, New Zealand for the following 28 summers, where Powell splits her time making art.

Powell has been a printmaker and mixed media artist for over 40 years, with work frequently shown on the North Coast and New Zealand. She runs a studio in Ilwaco, Washington, and is known for her abstract and vibrant monoprints.

The Port of Ilwaco's lively fishing

scene and woody wilderness are reflected in some of Powell's series' that feature Chinook salmon, forests, the ocean and the Columbia River.

Many of her pieces depict flowers in a vase or other floral designs.

In the sub-tropical environment of New Zealand, Powell finds the environment similar to the Pacific Northwest but with brighter and warmer colors. When she works there, she notices her work becomes more colorful and vibrant.

"The environment and climate, it really influences your art more than you think it does," she said.

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Marie Powell's piece, 'Mixed Bouquet,' hangs in her gallery.



Powell with her latest mixed media piece, 'Blue Vase.'

Photos by Morgan Grindy

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