



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Colored pencils and other art supplies cover Deanna Antony's studio.

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Her love of textiles comes from their ability to evoke emotions and memories.

"Textiles hold so much. They can signify something with their color and texture. They can bring you to a certain time and they can make you think of a place or a person," she said. "So our relationship with textiles is so rich. I absolutely love working with that material."

Antony's studio is covered in scraps of loose fabric and random drawings on a recent day as she just finished a piece, "Homer in the Bushes," that is part of a group show at Cambium Gallery. She was able to find the fabric for the piece at an antique store in Seaside during her first few weeks living on the North Coast.

"I'm having the fabric enter this work as a framing," Antony said. "This piece has its own voluminous fabric that frames the painting in a certain way. They're interacting together in one space. It's 2D and 3D, and it's evoking different things."

"The first time I saw Deanna's work I was really floored. (Her pieces) are so out of the box and original," said Annie Eskelin, executive director of Astoria Visual Arts.

Astoria Visual Arts' artist-in-residence program is entering its sixth year. Astoria Visual Arts is a membership organization that gets

More art online

More photos of Deanna Antony's work can be found on her website, deannantony.com

funding through community donations.

"It's a huge benefit for up and coming artists that leads to a whole sphere of opportunities," Eskelin said. "This program is a fantastic way to support people in their professional growth."

Antony, whose residency runs through May, said having the residency space to work has been imperative to her growth as an artist.

"I'm so grateful to be here," Antony said of the residency. "It's a sacred space where I can kind of be a mad scientist sometimes. I'm doing experiments, finding data and seeing what the results are, and then it plays into the next thing."

When she's not at the studio, you can find Antony at Seaside Coffee Roasters, spending time with her family or exploring her new coastal surroundings.

"I never really saw the ocean before (living in Seaside). I feel like the ocean was my studio space when I first got here," she said. "I would go and do watercolors and drawings and just listen to that white noise. I feel like within me there's this transformation happening from moving so close to the sea."



Pieces from Antony's MFA project hang on the wall of her studio.