

# Painter fulfills lifelong dream with new studio gallery

## Miska Studio Gallery to take part in Spring Unveiling

BY KATHERINE LACAZE

For artist Miska Salemann, owning an establishment where she could paint onsite, show her completed artwork and reside has been a long-term goal that came to fruition this year with the opening of the Miska Studio Gallery in Cannon Beach.

### If You Go

Miska Studio Gallery  
107 Sunset Blvd., Cannon Beach  
Open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“I’ve been manifesting it for 20 years,” Salemann said. “You could say it’s a miraculous manifestation.”

In December, she closed on the building at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Hemlock Street, which previously hosted a branch of Columbia Bank. She opened her gallery in January. It will be a new addition of the Spring Unveiling Arts Festival, which takes place Thursday to Sunday.

However, the artist is not entirely new to the area. She has shown her work at DragonFire Gallery in Cannon Beach for 18 years and purchased her first rental in the area in 2017.

For the past two decades, she’s been juggling her roles as a single mother; primary caregiver to her father in Fall City,



Katherine Lacaze

**Miska Salemann works on a painting at her studio gallery in Cannon Beach.**

Washington; professional painter; and real estate industry professional. With the passing of her father and her daughter going to college a couple years ago, the timing was right for her to pursue her dream more intensely.

Salemann started gathering inventory from other galleries where she was showing and began curating her own gallery.

“I’ve essentially put all my eggs in this basket,” she said.

Salemann is not alone in her venture. Julie Lord-Jessum — who describes herself as “a friend, collector and fan” of Salemann — is the gallery’s manager.

“I am extremely grateful for this opportunity,” Lord-Jessum said.

Lord-Jessum previously worked as a special education teacher in Washington state. The coronavirus pandemic put immense stress on her work and, subsequently, “changed my idea of what my path would be,” she said. However, the opportunities she’s created with her long-time friend — first helping Salemann care for her father and now running the gallery — are positive outcomes.

Both Salemann and Lord-Jessum have

residential space on the property. Salemann can work on paintings, often in view of patrons and vice versa.

### Of roosters and Madonna

Acrylic on canvas is Salemann’s medium of choice. Acrylics dry fast and its artists like “the instant gratifications,” she said. Salemann typically adds six layers of paint to each work so speed is essential.

She is a self-taught painter whose journey as an artist started in St. Thomas when faced with the need to decorate a vacation home on the island. Salemann continued to create art for homes for several years. As she continued painting, Salemann taught herself new skills by recreating works by Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse and Gustav Klimt.

Undoubtedly, the biggest influence on her style has been Spanish-Puerto Rican painter and sculptor Angel Botello, known as “The Caribbean Gauguin” and one of the most popular Latin-American post-modern artists of his generation.

“My figurative work resembles his,” she said.

Salemann’s pieces span a range of genres, including landscape, wildlife, farm life, abstract figurative and icons. Running her gallery gives her the chance to further explore “different areas that interest me,” she said.

She has a wildly popular rooster collection, inspired by the gaudy residents of the henhouse at a farm that she purchased from her father’s estate and still manages in Washington. Other popular works of Salemann’s depict the Madonna, influenced by her Roman Catholic and Russian Greek Orthodox upbringing. Her artworks often incorporate symbolism and iridescent colors that give them a radiant quality.

“Painting is pure joy for me,” Salemann said. “It really brings me peace and happiness.”

The gallery only displays Salemann’s work. She is not looking for consignors, yet owning her own space gives her the opportunity to bring in and feature other artists with temporary exhibitions.

For the Spring Unveiling, she will

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