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throughout the year.

This year, Aarts has themed her 100 days around creating miniature, intricate collages of local natural scenes, including spots like Cape Disappointment and the Astoria coastline.

“It’s been a really fun project for me, I actually really enjoy it,” she said.

For her collages, Aarts builds her pieces mostly with recycled scraps of paper left over from magazines and other mediums. Aarts will also incorporate handmade pieces she colors with watercolors and colored pencils to fill in spaces where she doesn’t have scrap paper that works.

“I’m an artist, I always have scraps of paper,” she said. “I don’t throw anything away.”

Over the years, Aarts said her style of art has evolved and gone through different iterations, ranging from watercolors to collages.

Throughout the years, a focus on the environment and love for the nature around her is something that has stayed consistent in Aarts’ work. She said she loves exploring themes of the environment in her work to share how beautiful and impactful natural surroundings are.

Aarts’ love for incorporating the environment into her pieces has really shined through in the 100 Days Project, she said.

“I’ve always been someone drawn to nature and to wildlife, I care very deeply for it,” she said. “I’m a total naturalist at heart.”

Growing up in Florida, Aarts was surrounded by wetlands. Now living in Astoria and being surrounded by the mountains and ocean (and going whale watching now and then), Aarts has found herself inspired by the rolling landscapes of the Pacific Northwest.

“I’m always inspired by all of it,” she said.

As she has watched the impacts climate change and humans have had on the planet, Aarts said she wants to reiterate through her pieces how important it is humans treasure natural resources.

Aarts said she has loved participating in Astoria’s local arts community in the past few years. She feels that moving to Astoria and having such a supportive local arts community has allowed Papernoten to flourish.

Last year, she organized the Astoria Home for the Holidays event, a one-day online sale that brought together about 60 local vendors’ work to sell online to the North Coast.

“The idea was that it was all local. I had local artists and small businesses,



Prints created by Aarts.

retailers as well, all on one site so you could shop all the local makers with one shopping cart,” she said.

There was no shipping or delivery involved. Instead, customers picked up their orders curbside-style, Aarts said.

“One of the coolest things about the event was that all of these artists I didn’t know existed in Astoria found an easy way to put themselves out there,” Aarts said.

Based on the success of the event, she is thinking about bringing it back this year but nothing is set in stone yet.

This summer, Papernoten can be found on weekends at the Astoria Sunday Market where Aarts will have a booth most Sundays through the early fall.

Aarts said once the 100 Days Project wraps up, she’s looking forward to focusing even more on the environment in her pieces and working on a collection of watercolor collages.



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian