



Speranza's piece '9-5 No More' is featured at RiverSea Gallery.

# Speranza: 'I've wanted to be an artist since I was 5'

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Next, she's looking forward to transitioning back into jewelry making for the Astoria Sunday Market and other projects.

Speranza was introduced to jewelry making at the Oregon College of Art & Craft. Before joining the college, she worked at a jewelry store. She decided to try her hand at a metalsmithing class at the college, she said.

"I really, really liked it so when I actually went to school I decided to enter the metalsmithing program," she said.

Here, she learned how to work with many different materials, allowing her to create both jewelry and smaller sculpture pieces.

Painting is the more recent medium Speranza has delved into. When she went to graduate school at East Carolina University, she initially enrolled in the school's metals program but wanted to try painting, too.

"In my second year I told my painting teacher, 'I'm going to try this, I don't know if I'm going to like it or not but we're going to give it a whirl for a semester' and I just kind of fell in love with it," Speranza said. "Since grad school, I've been honing and refining my voice in it."

Always snapping photos of eye-catching scenes and architecture she sees around town, Speranza finds unwavering inspiration in her Astoria surroundings.

"(My photos) end up being a vault of source material. Sometimes I'll take a picture of something and then look through my phone and think, 'Oh, I really like that, that could be a jumping off point for a sculpture or painting,'" she said.

Astoria's historical



A piece of jewelry Speranza created.



Speranza

buildings and unique landmarks are especially attention-grabbing for Speranza.

"I'm definitely drawn towards architecture," she said. "So I love being in a town like Astoria where there's a great deal of history. I'm really attracted to the grittiness of the buildings and enjoy just seeing the history."

### Inspiration within

Immediately before the coronavirus pandemic, Speranza spent February 2020 in rural Finland, where she completed an artist resi-

dency at the Arteles Creative Center. She had the opportunity to do group meditation classes, which have had a lasting impact on her work as an artist.

"It really just allowed me to learn those habits that allow you to listen to your thoughts," she said.

A lover of creating, being an artist has been a lifelong talent of Speranza's.

"I've wanted to be an artist since I was 5," she said.

In kindergarten, Speranza had a homework assignment where her teacher asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. Speranza answered: artist.

When she went to art school in her 20s, Speranza said it cemented her career choice and she fell even more in love with creating.

"I don't really know where that came from but I would consider it a calling," she said.

Zoë Buchli is a contributor to *The Astorian and Coast Weekend*.

## CLATSOP CARE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER



An update from your local nursing home

As a not-for-profit community supported organization, it's very important to us to keep the community informed of what's happening in our facility. That's why we've decided to share updates each week in the local paper.

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In an ongoing effort to protect our community and the community at large, Clatsop Care Center is offering anyone who comes in contact with our facility the opportunity to be vaccinated.

We're proud to say that over 80% of our staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All employees and their families are eligible to receive the vaccine.

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