

# Minority Business

## Building Her Field of Dreams

BY DEVIKA BATTAN FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Most people are familiar with the well known baseball movie called "Field of Dreams" starring Kevin Costner who plays a man that keeps having a recurring dream with instructions by his father saying, "build it and they will come." The message was for the son to take heed and follow.

Coincidentally, Jill Mackie also had recurring dreams about her father giving her confidence and encouragement to create a place to exhibit art. In these series of dreams, she would also hear the words, "so be it."

Jill Mackie's dream had always been to open a place that allowed a local artist to exhibit their art, and for artists to do what they love to do - create and express. She envisioned a quaint and charming place for art enthusiasts to be surrounded by art. And, Mackie wanted this to be a place that would allow art lovers to be able to enjoy owning original art works at a reasonable price.

So today, Jill Mackie's dream came true when she opened up "So Be It Gallery," located in the heart of in the Hollywood District at 1716 N.E. 42nd Ave. The area is not new to the Art gallery owner; it is where she grew-up. More recently, she has been an active member in the community and has been instrumental as a "booster" for the Hollywood, creating positive changes.

The motivation to create So Be It Gallery was not driven by greed. Mackie was driven to create a more meaningful space for all. Most importantly So Be It Gallery by design, is an artistic place where passions can run deep - where the act of creating is drawn from dreams, one's soul and life experiences.



Jill Mackie of So Be It Gallery showcases high quality, affordable art from local artists.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

According to Jill Mackie, "People need to realize that art is the first thing you see in the morning and the last thing you see at night." Art is what elevates man to a higher and better place. It is important to surround yourself in peace and beauty; it contributes to a higher quality of life as well as soothe the soul, explained Mackie. "This is the ultimate in what I've done. This is my dream that I am living," admits the gallery owner.

The So Be It Gallery is a wonderful place to "breathe in" art. It also acts as a referral service, connecting local artists with people who are looking for a certain style of art. If anyone desires a particular painting to be done, artists affiliated with the gallery can be commissioned to do the work. The gallery in the near future will offer workshops, classes and lectures for adults as well as children.



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