

# Artist

>From B1

When she found out she had cancer, Ferry quit her job and did a "mental checklist" of her life. She realized that all these years of working, she had been neglecting her passion — painting. She bought a brush and a palette of watercolors and built an art studio in her living room.

In May, Ferry will have her first one-woman show at Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Gallery in Vista. Proceeds will go toward cancer research.

It was a serendipitous occasion that launched Ferry into the local art scene. Carol Lang, director of Rancho Buena Vista Gallery, was browsing through Ferry's garage sale a year ago.

"Her work jumped out at me," Lang said. "It was mainly the colors. She's an upcoming new artist. . . . I never would have imagined that I'd find an artist at a yard sale."

Ferry paints vibrant flowers. She travels to Quail Botanical Gardens, local farmers' markets and wholesale outlets to find rare breeds, such as blue gingers and parrot tulips. She never paints from photographs.

Ferry cherishes the shape and form of flowers. She is drawn to their "uplifting and peaceful" ambience. Oftentimes, she names her flowers after friends who are dear to her heart.

Once a week, she takes an art class at Oceanside's Mira Costa College. She enjoys the work of Encinitas artist Alison Christler, a friend who encouraged her to join a watercolor painting society.

"I need to do a better job of selling myself," Ferry said. "I'm about going for the sympathy vote with my art, but it's not what I want. I want women out there to know my story when they

see my work."

Last year, Ferry's husband, Gregg, left his engineering job to be with her. He is in the process of seeking out other career paths, including solar panel home installation.

"I remember eight years ago it was really difficult for him," said Ferry. "He said if it were him with cancer, he'd just do nothing but surf all day and eventually die. . . . We went

### Artist's reception

Rancho Buena Vista  
Adobe Gallery

Noon to 2 p.m. May 7

For information about the show, call the gallery at (760) 639-6134

For information about Susie Ferry's work, visit [www.susieferry.com](http://www.susieferry.com)

Greg is passionate about his wife's art.

"What Susie does is very creative," said Gregg. "She has a lot of talent and (her art) is a very positive aspect of our relationship."

Greg was stunned by his wife's achievement at their garage sale.

"A lot of people expressed interest in her art that day," he said. "One lady took one of each of her images on her card. I think she

was going to cut them up and make a collage. . . . I chatted a bit with the woman from the gallery and told her to contact Susie when she got back from Hawaii. I didn't expect anything from it. . . . I was a bit surprised

when Susie got the call."

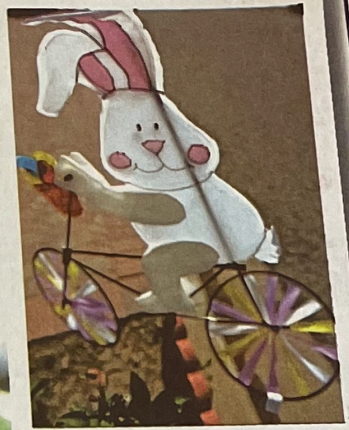
Although painting has become her "full-time job," Ferry is hoping to bike 100 miles Memorial Day weekend with Gregg. She says her cancer is described by doctors as being in a "stable with slow growth stage," which for Ferry, in the words of a favorite '60s musician, Bob Dylan, is another excuse for her to "keep on keepin' on like a bird that flew."

Source: [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

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# Passion for holidays

Photos and text by Sean DuFrene | [sean@tnews.net](mailto:sean@tnews.net)



Joe Ceccarelli, left, of San Marcos, loves to decorate for the holidays: Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July. "I'm passionate," Ceccarelli said.

Colorful enlarged Easter eggs, center, line a garden in the yard of Ceccarelli's San Marcos home. "He's too cute," neighbor Jo Lefton, about Ceccarelli's holiday decorating.

A bunny on a bicycle with windmill wheels, upper right, that walk past the Ceccarelli home in San Marcos.

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