



## Sage Moon Gallery Celebrates Its First Year

When Sage Moon Gallery first opened its doors in April of 2004, some people wondered how the sprawling space that once housed a furniture store would fit into its new role. One year later, Sage Moon has settled beautifully into the multi-leveled space, becoming one of the most popular art spots in town. Filled with works by local, national and international artists, the gallery welcomes visitors with an abundance of fine art. Large plants, overstuffed sofas and soft classical music create a lush, expansive atmosphere that distinguishes Sage Moon from other galleries in town.

"We started with white walls," said co-owner Morgan MacKenzie-Perkins, "but realized very soon that they weren't going to work. We moved to more warm and inviting colors, and people responded to it right away."

When she and her husband Jim were looking for a place to house the gallery, Morgan knew that she wanted to "think big." The art scene on the downtown mall was entering an exciting phase, and the couple had ambitious hopes for creating their own unique niche.

"I sat in the space and knew it was perfect for my vision," Morgan said.

"Why not start where you want to be?"

Recently retired, Morgan and Jim thought that traveling and other post-retirement pursuits would keep them occupied. But they quickly found themselves bored by "putting their feet up," and began looking for a new adventure. Their shared love of beautiful things, along with Morgan's experience in the antique and interior design fields, made an art gallery the perfect choice.

Unlike some galleries, Sage Moon is strictly a commercial retail venture, with no donations, grants or cooperative aspects. This allows Morgan and Jim to tailor their selections to the tastes of their clientele, providing only original art at a wide range of price levels.

Many clients, both local and tourist, return to Sage Moon often as repeat customers. Even those living in other parts of the country can see the newest works at Sage Moon's online gallery ([www.sagemoongallery.com](http://www.sagemoongallery.com)), a new aspect of the business that's proving to be very popular.

In addition to watercolor, oil and acrylic paintings, the gallery also offers incredibly beautiful sculpture, jewelry, folk art, textiles, glass, and wood carvings.

"We've developed a new family," said Morgan. "Being downtown and meeting artists and customers has really expanded our world."

She is especially proud of the employees who help pull it all together, including Assistant Director Elizabeth DeRose and Gallery Assistants James Callahan, Liz Taylor and Ada Bowers.

Sage Moon Gallery is open every day of the week from 10am to 7pm, with hours



currently extending until 9pm on Friday evenings. For First Fridays, the gallery welcomes visitors with wine and food. A First Fridays opening can also feature the sounds of live jazz or classical music.

In April, the gallery's featured artist is photographer Bonnie Bronson. Ms. Bronson will exhibit several of her black and white and infrared photographs.

Sage Moon Gallery is located at 420 E. Main St. on the downtown mall. To learn more, visit [sagemoongallery.com](http://sagemoongallery.com) or call one of the helpful staff members at (434) 977-9997.

Top Image: Treble Clef, marble, by Michael Askew; Center: Wet Sandy Beach, oil, by Adel Sansur; Bottom: El Flor Amarillo, oil, by Allen Sandy