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This is the first issue of *The Shared Easel*, a quarterly newsletter.

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Welcome to The Shared Easel

I am thrilled to present the first issue of *The Shared Easel*. Producing a newsletter has been part of my “future” plans for several years.

The Shared Easel will feature articles on a number of topics: from creativity and the art process to making homemade cards and journals. Each issue will provide book recommendations, tips on framing, an activity or process for kids and an update on what’s new. I invite you to e-mail me with any suggestions for topics you would like to see included.

The Shared Easel is a free quarterly newsletter, available online. To sign up for the newsletter you can click right [here](#). Your information will be kept private and will not be shared with anyone. You may unsubscribe at anytime.

Feel free to send this newsletter to people you think would be interested.



[“Silhouette”](#)

Why Not Do it Now?

Have you ever dreamed of doing something but it seemed too big to tackle? Have you thought of that dream from time to time and hoped you would get to it one day?

Recently, I heard myself saying, “I plan to do that in the future, it is one of my long term goals.” This time I stopped myself and said “Wait a minute, I can do it now!” For years, I have written some of the same “long term goals” (including a newsletter), on list after list.

This past summer I became determined to take those “future goals” and make them happen NOW. I have not been this energized in years. I am filled with excitement and delight as I tackle one goal after another.

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“So often, goals, hopes and dreams are set aside for some nonspecific future date. What are we missing out on by shelving our dreams? What are the benefits of making them a reality? Do we ignite our life force by taking action now?”

Why Not do it Now? (continued...)

And as in my experience of creating artwork, the biggest gifts are in the *process* of working towards my goals rather than in the accomplishments. My determination and enthusiasm energizes me to get past the time consuming tasks that are part of the process.

What is on your list of “long term goals?” How can you make them happen now?

“Today is the future you have been waiting for.”

The Google Connection

Want to get a free rotating show of my paintings?

At my last Open Studio someone asked if they could get a CD of my images. I have considered this request. What I am now able to offer is a method of receiving random images of my paintings each time you refresh your [Personalized Google Homepage](#).

Here’s how it works. Once you have set up your [Personalized Google Homepage](#), click on the *Add more to this page* link in the upper left hand corner of the page. Then all you do is click on *Search by URL*, which is to the right of the Search Homepage Content button. Then enter the following URL in the space provided. (You can cut and paste this URL.)

<http://www.wendymegsiegel.com/wendymegsiegel.xml>

When you return to your homepage you will see one of the images from the rotating slide show.

For any questions you may have on a Google Homepage click this [link](#).



[“MISTical Vision”](#)

Books...

As I was writing about making “future goals” happen now, I “accidentally” came across a book that seemed appropriate to share in this first issue. Although I have not read [Make Your Creative Dreams Real](#), by [Sark](#). I have read and own a few of her other books.

The whole title is: [Make Your Creative Dreams Real: A Plan for Procrastinators, Perfectionists, Busy People, and People Who Would Really Rather Sleep All Day](#).



No Open Studios for Me this Year

Back in January, I made the decision to not be part of this year's [Santa Cruz County Open Studios Tour](#).

Planning and preparing for Open Studios takes a lot of time and energy. This year I chose to channel that same time and energy into other projects and a new creative focus.

I have years of experience with Studio Shows: including 14 shows in my home/studio in New York and Scotts Valley. I know how to plan and prepare for one, which makes it easy to keep doing what I've been doing.

But in order to shift focus and accomplish my goals, I needed to create the space to do so and let go of what I am used to.

This shift has made way for a newsletter, three [online stores](#), several new creative endeavors and added joy in my life.

New Online Gift Shops

For several years I have wanted to set up one or more [online stores](#).

And now I am excited to be able to announce the opening of three new "shops".

[Misty Landscapes](#) : products featuring photos used in the paintings,
[Southwest Spirit](#) : products with images of the Southwest Extensions,
[The Buddha Art Shop](#) : products with Buddha oriented paintings/prints.

You can choose from t-shirts, mugs, cards, journals, prints and more. There are many items to meet your gift-giving needs. One order can include items from all three shops.

New products and images will be added periodically. Visit and bookmark the stores so you can easily return to see what's new.

Framing Tips...spending less

There are many good framers who can help advise you on frame styles, colors and mats. But for those of you who would like to do it yourself, check out the online catalogs at [American Frame](#) and [Pictureframes.com](#).

Both have discounted frame prices and good customer service. Metal section frames are easy to use. All you need is a screwdriver.

If you have other recommendations, let me know and I can include it in a future issue. You can e-mail me at wendy@wendymegsiegel.com.



["Duplex" Tile Box](#)



["Misty Mountain" Tote Bag](#)

Plenty of gift ideas to choose from at the [online stores](#): t-shirts, mugs, cards, tiles, journals, tote bags and more.



["Flowering Buddha" Journal](#)

Kid Stuff

This is an excellent play dough recipe, supplied by a loving teacher and a special woman:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 Tbs. oil
- 1 Tbs. cream of tartar
- Food coloring or liquid watercolor

Mix all the ingredients together. Add color before cooking. Then cook on medium heat until it changes consistency and sticks together.

**Great
Photography
site!**

[Jerry Uelsmann](#)

***His photographic
work is all done
in the darkroom.
The images you
will see at this
site are not
digitally altered.***



**Now
Showing**

[The Window Series](#) is now showing at [The Spa at Pajaro Dunes](#) and the Fitness Center at the [Pajaro Dunes](#) Office.

“[Silhouette](#)” has been in A Sense of Place: Collective 2006. The show is at the [Pajaro Valley Arts Council Gallery](#), from August 11 to October 1.



“Prayer Box with Water Lily”

*Look for this in the next issue of
The Shared Easel
December 2006*

Cards, Cards, Cards

- ♦ The Greeting Card Time of Year
- ♦ Creating Your Own Greeting Cards
- ♦ Books offering creative ideas for card making
- ♦ Card making activity for kids
- ♦ What’s new at the on-line stores
- ♦ And more...

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Note: www.wendyarts.com and www.wendymeqsiegel.com direct you to the same site.

CHECK OUT THE GALLERIES AND
STORES AT WENDYARTS.COM