





Theresa Goesling of Bellevue. 'Bringing home the tree"

Theresa Goesling, 44, of Bellevue likes painting people into warm, colorful Northwest and European scenes like this. Goesling, a Northwest Watercolor Society signature member, teaches in Tuscany and creates customized greeting cards, portraits and paintings on commission. Families can be painted right into an original for a one-of-a-kind card or keepsake painting. Her paintings, prints and greeting cards are available at theresagoesling.com and at Takara Gallery in Bend, Ore. "I want a lot of vibrancy and color," Goesling said. "I want people to feel uplifted. I want people to think, I want to go there."

2. Becky Brendlin of Duvall

Becky Brendlin, 58, of Duvall wanted to evoke the feeling of Christmas and a child's anticipation of Christmas with this ink drawing. Brendlin, Snoqualmie Valley Artists Guild founding member, decided the tradition of leaving milk and cookies for Santa was an ideal way to do it. Her cards, painting and other artworks are available at brendlindesigns. com, at becky@brendlindesigns.com and at Duvall Flowers and Gifts. "I hope that they will connect with it in a way that gives them pleasure or invokes a memory or gives them hope for the future or simply tickles their fancy," she said.

Days of Christmas Cards Christmas Cards Greetings by Local Artists

anymore - except for Christmas. When the boughs of holly go up, people start watching their mailboxes for cards and letters from loved ones near and far.

Why not mail a handcrafted greeting card by local painters, photographers or printmakers to your friends and family this year? Handcrafted cards like these will appear at local art galleries. retail stores, bookstores and artist Web sites like unexpected, vet delightful Santa gifts. They're worth a second look.

Here are 12 cards by 12 artists to count down to the big day.

3. Dan Cautrell of Duvall, "And yet there was peace among the trees ...

Dan Cautrell, 52, of Duvall created this linoleum print after being inspired by wild beauty near his home. Shortly thereafter, the 2006 December storm brought many trees crashing down and cut power for days. Yet family, friends and clients welcomed the message of hope in the storm's aftermath. Three of his public art installations are in Duvall, two on Main Street and one at McCormick Park. His cards and prints are available at dancautrell. com or at dan.cautrell@gmail.com. "Inspiration is a mysterious thing," Cautrell said. "It was kind of a

premonition. ... (The card) has a sense of optimism and hope in light of that one disaster."







unconventional beauty to loved ones to be different. Ohga Lotus is itself unexpected; Ohga found and successfully cultivated this extinct flower from a 2,000-year-old seed. Tilley, who loves vibrant colors, travels through Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the U.S. to fill his portfolio. His cards and full-sized prints are available at Parklane Gallery in Kirkland, at robtilleyphotos.com or at robtilleyphotos@yahoo.com.

"It's a beautiful flower," Tilley said. "If you go to a Buddhist temple, the Buddha is always sitting on a lotus flower. They always grow in this murky water, but the flowers themselves stick above the water."

5. Richard Duval of Mill Creek, "Early Snow on Mt. Shuksan"

Richard Duval, 51, of Mill Creek, inspired by light and music, waits until the sun and the land are in harmony to snap pictures like this. His wife, Leslee, pairs the photographs with metallic colored papers and mats for the cards. Together, they assemble the cards, which are available at duvalimages.com, Parkplace Books in Kirkland, University Bookstore in Mill Creek and The Art & Soul Gallery in Bothell. "Sometimes (the light) has awed me to the point I have almost forgotten to take a picture," Duval said. "It really is a privilege when people invite you into their home or their space through your work."

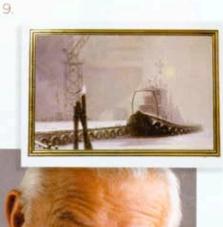
6. Deborah Haggman of Renton, "The Sentinels"

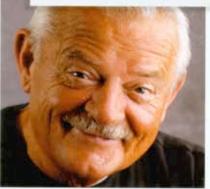
Deborah Haggman of Renton, who is originally from British Columbia, is inspired by majestic trees, serene water and natural landscapes. Every year, this Northwest Watercolor Society signature member creates one — and only one new winter landscape for Christmas. Her cards are available at Flamingo Frame and Gallery in Renton I am drawn to trees," Haggman said. "I am always on the lookout and take my camera wherever I go. I have got a huge reference file of photographs (for my paintings)."

7. Patti Simpson Ward of Sammamish, "The Happy Holiday House"

Patti Simpson Ward, 57, of Sammamish enlivened this Queen Anne-style house by showing her family celebrating the season. Her primitive-style paintings feature landmark homes, businesses or landmarks with architectural or historical appeal and the people who enjoy them. Eastside, Puget Sound and Spokane area sites are her favorites. Her greeting cards, calendars and prints are available at pattisimpsonward.com, Stone House Café in Redmond, Redmond Historical Society and Redmond Saturday Market. The Bellevue Art Museum Store will be carrying her "Eastside Settings" 2008 Calendar. The calendar will feature Simpson Ward's American Primitive Paintings of settings (some historical) from Bellevue, Medina, Kirkland, Juanita, Redmond, Woodinville and Snoqualmie. "I like to paint settings that people love," she said.







8. Lisa Rasmussen of Renton, "Christmas Cow"

Lisa Rasmussen of Renton, 44, reminisces about the dairy farm where she grew up by drawing innocent, whimsical farm animals on greeting cards, T-shirts, prints, magnets and mugs. Despite milking 120 dairy cows every night in her youth, they're still her favorite. Her greeting cards and other products are available at designsbylisa.com, at Remingler Farm in Carnation and the Puyallup Fair. "(The cards) have a little sense of humor in them," she said. "There is a sense of peace, a sense of innocence, a good feeling."

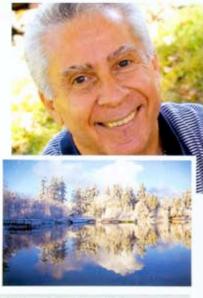


9. Austin Dwyer of Mukilteo. "The Sentinel"

Austin Dwyer, 69, of Mukilteo delights in bringing tugboats, ships and sailors to life, especially what he calls the mystery of the fog. He also enjoys painting the people, pubs and countryside of Ireland, where he was born. His artwork is available at Kirsten Gallery of Seattle, Coos Art Museum of Coos Bay, Ore., and the Maritime Gallery at Mystic Seaport Museum of American and the Sea in Mystic, Conn. His cards are available at nauticalholidaycards.com and 888.884. MSMS. "When you see something you like, that painting says, 'look at me.' If (paintings) don't have that initial impact that wants you to look further, you go past it. The paintings have to talk to people," Dwyer said.

10. Ryan Pinckney of Renton. "Chickadee"

Ryan Pinckney, 18, loves sketching majestic animals, especially great blue herons, hawks and wolves, in micro-fine ink pens. For four years, the Renton artist and his 14-year-old sister, Casey. a photographer, have crafted and sold their original greeting cards at farmers markets, bazaars and art fairs. Their family sent his card, "Chickadee," as their Christmas card. The siblings and their artwork can be found at Issaguah Farmers Market at Pickering Barn or at pedalbarn@msn.com. "I really like wildlife," said Pinckney.



11. Mike Sabatini of Lynnwood, "Snow at Martha Lake"

Mike Sabatini of Lynnwood happened upon this winter wonderland at Martha Lake near Lynnwood. He focuses on iconic European images and Northwest images surrounding Edmonds, Seattle, La Conner and Mt. Baker. His full-sized photographs are available at Parkplace Books in Kirkland and Edmonds Summer Market in Edmonds. His greeting cards and photographs are available at msabatini. com, Parkplace Books in Kirkland, KaBloom in Mill Creek and Wise Designz in Everett. "I love farmland, early in the morning. A soft light that captures nature in all of its glory," Sabatini said.



12. Barbara Newton of Renton, "The Last Promise"

Barbara Newton, 63, of Renton described this recent work as a breakthrough on her quest to mastering Impressionism. Working with passages of color, her goal is to recreate the feeling of a place. She is a signature member and 10-year merit member of the Northwest Pastel Society. Her work is available at barbaranewton.net. Jeffrey Moose Gallery in Seattle, State of the Arts Gallery in Olympia and The Attic Gallery in Portland, Ore. "I hope (people) will take a moment from this busy life that we have ... and look at a scene - it could be a card or a painting - and take a break and go into that scene and gain some calmness," Newton said. 1881