

# Local entrepreneur says art helps heal

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ORMOND BEACH — A visit to a doctor's office or hospital can be nerve-racking, especially if you're waiting to get a diagnosis or test results.

Judith Stein of Ormond Beach says the stress and anxiety that people feel can be reduced with the healing power of art.

Her new business, Creative Artists Network, sells

art to health care facilities that is designed to create a relaxing atmosphere.

Ms. Stein said she first realized the importance of art when she worked as director of communications for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

"We had a large research facility and had art everywhere," she said. "They were very aware of how art can affect patients and their families."

She has also seen a need for more appropriate art through personal observation.

"I'm sure I'm not the only one who has waited nervously in a doctor's office, and instead of looking at something that would ease your anxiety, you're looking at a chart of the digestive system or something," she said.

After retiring, Ms. Stein moved to Ormond Beach about two years ago.

Her business began when she started helping her sister, Harriet Blum, market her photography.

"Harriet has been very successful in placing art in health care settings," she said.

One such setting is the



Photo courtesy Wayne Grant

Judith Stein offers a variety of art for medical, corporate and residential settings in her new business.



Photo courtesy Judith Stein  
"Fairchild Oak," a photograph showing a local landmark tree, hangs in the offices of Snell Legal in Ormond Beach.

Breast Center of Acadiana in Lafayette, La.

The administrator at the Center, Linda Rose, said the results have been remarkable.

"The women who come here are anxious and nervous," she said. "We want to create an environment of care, serenity and comfort and lessen the anxiety."

Ms. Rose said they have had positive comments from patients.

"Harriet's work is beautiful and has a feeling of home. We have her art in every room," Ms. Rose said. "It makes a difference

to the patients and we feel good about that."

Ms. Blum often visits the Ormond Beach area and her photographs include scenes from the Loop and other well-known locations.

In addition to health care institutions, Ms. Stein also sells art for corporate and residential settings.

Art from the Creative Artists Network hangs in the local law office of Snell Legal on West Granada Boulevard.

Greg Snell chose one of Ms. Blum's photographs, "Fairchild Oak," for the

office.

"We wanted a positive feel in the office and art that reflects the local area," he said.

Ms. Stein started her business a few months ago and represents six artists, including local artist Scott Hiestand, and plans to add a seventh artist soon.

Their work can be seen on her Web site, creativeartistsnetwork.net.

"It's all art that I love," she said. "I've admired some of these artists for 20 years."

The six artists present a wide variety, from acrylic

paintings to digital art.

Ms. Blum said the Web site has given her a lot of exposure.

"Some artists are good at marketing their own work but a lot of them need help," she said.

Ms. Stein said she started the new business because of her enjoyment in working with artists.

"I love the art. I love the artists I represent and I want to help them," she said. "And I want other people to enjoy their art."

For information go to [creativeartistsnetwork.net](http://creativeartistsnetwork.net).