



Photo: Kelli Uldall

New Masters Gallery Marks Milestone Anniversary

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Bill Hill opened New Masters gallery in Carmel with his late wife, Jennifer, 45 years ago. The space features an array of painting and sculpture.

Bill and Jennifer Hill moved west and opened Carmel's New Masters Gallery 45 years ago this spring, armed with a \$5,000 loan from Bill's father:

"We started with six artists, in an upstairs courtyard space with no foot traffic," Bill remembers. "Jennifer said, 'If it doesn't work, we can always go back to Illinois.'"

The gallery grew, however, eventually landing in its current Dolores Street location between Ocean and 7th. Business bounced back following a 2015 fire, and today, the artist roster ranges from accomplished sculptors to Realist and Impressionist painters to a French marquetry artist who creates intricate wood inlay pieces.

"Because we've been in business for a long

time, we attract artists at the top of their game," Bill says.

Since 1974, the Hills have been involved with numerous arts initiatives, toy drives and other community events. Though Jennifer passed away 13 years ago, Bill remains active in the art community and close with an extended group of artists and clients who have become friends.

"It's amazing that I've been in business this many years. It just blows my mind," he says. "I still love it, and I'm very thankful. Artists send new paintings, and it's like Christmas when I open up the crate."

For more information, please visit www.newmastersgallery.com or call 831/625-1511.