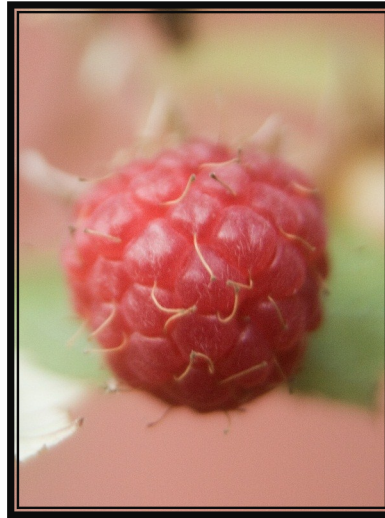


The Keen Observer

Volume 34 July 2012

Sometimes I wonder What I Am Doing

It is funny. I will go to shows and talk to other artists who are all a good ten to twenty years older than I am, with older or grown children. When they find out I have three kids under ten at home, they are in shock that I find the time to create as much as I do and do shows. I am in shock too, to be honest. This year I am not doing many shows. I had planned to do more, but some that I did last year have been cancelled or raised their booth fee to a price that doesn't fit in my budget, and others have expanded to being two or more days. My office is being over run with jewelry and displays (the photography doesn't take up much room and I have stopped myself from creating any new framed pieces because I am not sure where I would hang them.). I have almost 200 listings on Etsy, but that is only about half of my current inventory. I know I need to list more, but that is a tedious task that I find myself putting off in order to make bread, play board games with my daughter or work on the back log of photography that I was sitting on until recently.



While reading through a PetaPixel E-mail I came across the quote to the right. Every year I get to a point where I wonder what I am doing with my art, my "business" and my life. I want to create and not feel the constant pressure to try and be "found". Somehow I always end up right back on that race track, trying to catch up with the "artists" in New York or the moms with older children who have the time to devote to their business.

What's the point? I cannot and will not stop creating, but I may not get out as many newsletters or blog posts this year. I am still here if you need photography services or jewelry. Ardent Market will resume as the weather gets better.. I will be at Proctor in August. My hope is that I will not lose readers, that people will still see my art and find value in it, and that I can find a better balance between home, art and you, my devoted customers. Thank you for reading.

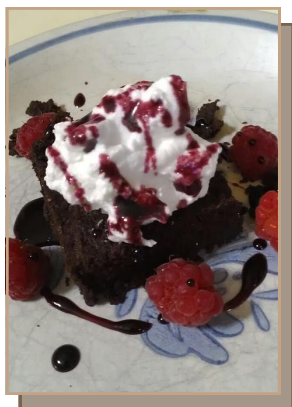
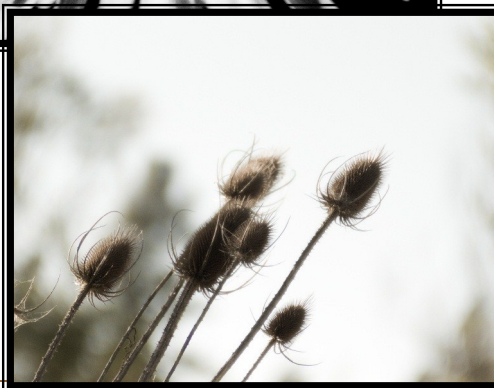
Snippets

- Find Ardent images on Coffee Cups, T-shirts and more on Zazzle.com.
- Like one of the photographs you see? Don't forget you can order online anytime through [e-mail](mailto:ardent@ardentlife.com) or my Etsy.com shop.
- [Ardent Life Designs](http://ArdentLifeDesigns.com) is the jewelry side of my business. From handmade chain necklaces to beaded wrap bracelets and dangly earrings, you can find beautiful artisan jewelry for the discerning woman in your life.
- Check out the new Ardent Life website as it develops. <http://www.ardentphotography/ardentlife/index.htm>

"In order to build a career and to be successful, one has to be determined. One has to be ambitious. I much prefer to drink coffee, listen to music and to paint when I feel like it."

~Saul Leiter

New Art



Brownies with Sweet Wine Reduction

- 6 ounces unsweetened chocolate (or dark chocolate)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar (plus another 3 tablespoons for the whipped cream)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 1 bottle sweet red wine

The combination of these flavors is lovely. If you do not have time to make the brownies from scratch, boxed brownies will work.

- * Pour wine into a heavy bottom sauce pan and bring just to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer and reduce until thick. Set aside to cool
- * Melt chocolate with butter in another skillet over low heat.
- * Beat Egg, sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and salt in a mixing bowl until light in color, then add the flour and cocoa powder.
- * Slowly pour the cooled chocolate butter mixture into the egg mixture while stirring constantly.
- * Pour into a 9x9 pan and bake in a 350F oven for 25-30 minutes.
- * Meanwhile, beat the cream with the vanilla and 3 tablespoons sugar until stiff.
- * Serve cooled brownie with a dollop of cream, drizzle of reduction and fresh berries.

An Ardent Evening

Package A: Playing with Wire—Want to learn how to make wire jewelry? Why not make it a party? Enjoy an evening in with friends, laughter and a little instruction from me on how to make a simple wire worked necklace and dangle earrings.

\$85 per person

I will provide each guest with a set of mini jewelry tools, the wire and beads along with 1 hour of instruction

Package B: Glamour Girls—Spend an evening with friends, shopping in your living room with Ardent Life Jewelry and have a glamour girl photo shoot. You will receive an 8x10 of your favorite pose (*chosen from the web gallery that will be available less than 1 week from the date of your party*).

\$60 per person

Package C: The Traditional—I will come with my jewelry, displays and photography for you to peruse at your leisure. You provide the location and the friends. You will receive a great host/hostess gift while also receiving 10% off any purchases you make. E-Mail me to book your party today
sarah@ardentphotography.com.

Portrait Price Break

Free 8x10
print with all
sessions in
July!



Portrait Sessions

\$75 per half hour for Family, Baby, High School Senior, Individual, Business Head Shot, etc. in a location of your choosing 20 miles from University Place, WA (there is an additional fee for location over 20 miles from my office.) The session fee includes my time and eye during your photo session as well as my ability in post processing. Prints are available separately.

Within two weeks your photographs will be available in a private online gallery for viewing and ordering. For more information please visit

<http://www.ardentphotography.com/portrait.htm>

A Unique Vision of Everyday

Book a Session sarah@ardentphotography.com

6620 48th Street Court West
University Place, WA 98467

Office: 253-566-6175

Cellular: 253-376-6141

E-Mail: Sarah@ardentphotography.com

Ardent
PHOTOGRAPHY



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WWW.ARDENTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Making the everyday unique.

Photograph of the Month



A Request...

Every time the sun shines, I find myself out in my little garden patch. We are slowly trying to create texture and color in our very blah back yard. If you are trying to do the same and are looking for some beautiful yard decorations, I would love to let you know about a local artist who makes gorgeous garden art. Deidre Perez Norris is a wonderful artisan who creates spectacular decorations for your outdoor spaces. Check her out on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/AgirlwholovesJUNK> or find her work at local shops like [Salon Halo](#).

Looking for some superb plants? I love [Wild Thyme](#) Nursery and Landscaping in Tacoma. They are friendly and helpful. Check them out! 4416 South 74th St over by Mt. Tahoma High School.

Thank you,

Sarah McTernan

