

Art party

Chrissandra Neustaedter reaches out to local talent as she prepares to meet the world

Kate Webb

FRIDAY! Magazine

There's nothing like a good party to bring some flush back to pale winter cheeks, and it's even better if the company is interesting. Enter local artist **Chrissandra Neustaedter**.

The self-employed, travel-loving teacher, musician and painter is hosting a wine and cheese reception for the public at her private studio gallery on Saturday evening, complete with a guest list of artsy-types and live music. She decided to host the party in hopes of connecting with other aesthetically-minded people, and perhaps some potential students as well.

"I don't know a lot of artists in Abbotsford, so I figured this would be a good way to meet more of them," she explained. "My work will be displayed, so I'd like to get some exposure, and I'd like to meet some people to maybe go out to the country to paint, or to do seminars on marketing and building artistic confidence."



John Morrow photo

Chrissandra Neustaedter will be exhibiting these works and more as she invites the public to her gallery tomorrow evening.

Neustaedter's work has garnered national and international attention since she left the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design more than a decade ago – so much so that it will be shown at the upcoming New York Art Exhibition in March. Her characteristic style centres on bold black lines, which she carves out of a heavily textured acrylic medium, layered over hand-crafted, mahogany framed panels.

"Put simply, I paint things that I like,"

she said. "I love the trees, I love architecture, I love music and interiors and those are the things I pretty much gravitate to. And, of course, travel."

Neustaedter also spends a month each year painting in Italy, a habit which produces some of her most eclectic work.

The gallery open house is scheduled for Feb. 17 from 7 to 10 p.m. at #202-2669 Langdon St. If you plan to attend, RSVP at: art@chrissandra.com.