

Owner of MSB Gallery has found his dream job

By Paul Monies, Business Writer

After 27 years as a fundraiser for various nonprofit and educational organizations, Ed Crane wanted to try his hand at the for-profit world.

What he found was his dream job, a job that combined his love of art with the challenge of running a retail business.

Crane, a Kansas native, owns MSB Art Gallery in far southwest Oklahoma City. He bought the gallery in April from Barbara Johnson, who started the Ms. B. Originals gallery 16 years ago and moved it to Chatenay Square in 2001.

"This gallery had a long history of quality custom framing and a blend of services I didn't see elsewhere in Oklahoma City," said Crane, who still talks to Johnson about once a week.

The gallery sells oil paintings, prints and sculptures, as well as ready-made and custom frames. With housing continuing to boom in southwest Oklahoma City, Crane said many customers are homeowners looking for art to fill their new homes or interior designers looking for art for their clients. Others are drop-in customers who might be shopping at Chatenay Square, at SW 104 and Pennsylvania Avenue.

"We have to carry a tremendous amount of different types of art," Crane said. "And we're always looking at new artwork to purchase."

As well as about 1,500 prints in the gallery, MSB has an online database of about 190,000 prints for sale, searchable by theme, color, subject and size. The gallery also features work by local artists such as sculptor Sandra Van Zandt and painter Janet Loveless.

"That's the really fun part about this job," Crane said. "You get to look at a lot of types of art."

Crane, whose personal tastes lean to abstract and contemporary art, said art trends change fairly quickly. Right now, scenes of Tuscany or Venice are hot. In Oklahoma, landscapes and Western art are always big sellers, although he's noticed more of an interest in contemporary and abstract art.

Before he bought the gallery, Crane worked for nonprofit World Neighbors, a job that brought him to Oklahoma City. He's also worked for a museum in Baltimore and as a fundraiser for a social services agency in Fort Worth, Texas. That job allowed Crane to travel across the country and around the world. He'd spend his downtime visiting local museums and galleries.

"There's not an average day," Crane said of his new job. "That's what keeps it a very interesting career change."

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COOL JOB

Art gallery owner

- **Education:** Crane has a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas.
- **Skills:** Experience in retail sales or event planning, marketing/advertising, general business knowledge.
- **Salary:** Depends on the market. Crane said the average customer purchase is about \$400.



BY PAUL B. SOUTHERLAND, THE OKLAHOMAN

Ed Crane, owner of MSB Art Gallery, 10600 S Pennsylvania, is shown Friday with some of the gallery's artwork.