



Against a backdrop of calm neutral colors, Sarah's vivid paintings can be found throughout the house. Several of them are propped against walls, as with this one in the living room atop the fireplace mantel. In the foyer, right, a 48-by-48-inch painting called *Sunset Serenade* is propped on top of a marble-top chest. An opening to the left reveals the formal living room, where several of Sarah's paintings are hung in a dense collage for patrons to view and purchase.

"Reinvent Yourself"

Those are the words that leapt out at local artist Sarah Griffith as she and husband Gilbert walked by a storefront window while visiting Seattle recently.

Sarah says she remembers looking at the sign and thinking, "That's what I'm doing."

After teaching at University Lab School for many years and then working as a principal for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Sarah is "reinvigorating" herself as an artist in retirement.

"People tend to expect me to be a lot younger than I am," she admits. "I'm aggressive and bold and have always been that way. I think my personality closely resembles my paintings."

In the early part of her retirement, Sarah worked at her husband's veteri-

nary clinic in Prairieville but she soon realized her creative potential.

"I've always painted and done crafty things," she says, remembering inspiration she received from an art instructor in an elementary art class years ago. "The teacher told me I should take more art classes. She thought I was highly creative."

Sarah eventually enrolled in painting classes, and even taught a few classes as well. She says developing her artistic tendencies came at a time when her four adult children had already left the house.

"Now there's just this little guy," she says, gesturing toward the couple's 3 1/2-year-old son Wesley.

Although she learned many things from the classes, Sarah says she developed most of her skills on her own.

"I'm somewhat self-taught," Sarah

