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JULIE BACON PHOTO

## Local artist explores dreamscapes at solo art studio

By DANIELLE RIVERA

Longtime Scarsdale resident Jill Krutick has been clasp- ing a paintbrush for more than 40 years but, for many of those years, it was simply a recreational pastime.

A closet painter and pianist, Krutick ultimately veered toward a career in business, earning her master's de- gree in management from New York University's Stern School of Business before working on Wall Street, chiefly as a Citigroup analyst, for 17 years.

At Citigroup, Krutick covered large-cap me- dia companies like Disney, Viacom and Time Warner as well as leisure companies like Hasbro and Marvel Entertainment. After nearly two decades, Krutick felt pulled in a different direction, leaving Wall Street to roll up her sleeves at Warner Music Group, a company she helped go public in 2005.

Yet as Krutick's tots became teens and her career slowed down, she fell back into her first love of painting, creating new projects at night and taking classes at The Art Students League in New York City.

"I found it to be a very peaceful, wonderful place," Krutick said, "and it blossomed in terms of an opportunity and ultimately, a business."

Indeed, in 2010, Krutick decided to take the leap and begin showing her art publicly. In the eight years since, she's had an astronomical rise, showcasing her work at more than 23 group shows across the country with features in 12 solo exhibitions.

Krutick is also active in the world of art academia, having sat on the boards for The Art Students League, The New York chapter of The Recording Academy, Hoff-Barthelsson Music School, The Wharton Arts Network and National Amusements.

"Actually, it was a very natural progression, which sounds odd," Krutick said of her journey from businesswoman to artist. "I think both live in my body — you know, right brain, left brain."

Now, Krutick is inviting the local art community into her inner sanctum — a new, gallery-style studio at 425 Mount



ROBERT FROST PHOTO

Krutick, above, has been painting recre- ationally all her life, but only started showcas- ing her work publicly in 2010. Top, Krutick's 2,000-square-foot work- ing art studio at 425 Mount Pleasant Ave. in downtown Mamaroneck.

Pleasant Ave. in downtown Mamaroneck.

The relocation was born partly out of desire, partly out of necessity, she said.

"I've outgrown my home studio after taking over one room and then a larger room and then a larger room," she said. "The paintings were basically bursting out of the house."

The studio will serve as a showcase for the artist's past projects and a forum for her to generate new content.

While the layout and décor are sleek and refined, Krutick said the studio is far from a quiet, ambient space when she's painting. Most often, she's blaring contemporary rock — though she sometimes drifts into classical — applying oils onto an easel to U2's "A Beautiful Day" or throwing paint on a canvas-strewn floor.

Overall, she said, her inspiration comes from a myriad of sources — windblown ships on a New Zealand sea, or worlds she builds entirely out of weird, magical make believe.

"The geometric [series] certainly was spawned from my very structured finance background," she said. "Everything was methodical, and that type of motion was very much akin to that style."

After that, she said, "My style opened up and became more fluid and musical. The abstract expressionist just gives you a range of options, and I love that freedom."

Krutick's studio boasts pieces from each of her seven paint- ing series — Aurora, Dreamscape, Shangri la, Swirl, Abstract, Ice Cube and Geometric. "They all sort of tie in to who I am and the passions I've had throughout my life," she said.

Krutick said she often revisits series from her past, adding onto them like lifelong collages. That evergreen passion is especially valuable since Krutick is preparing for her first- ever solo museum show at the Coral Springs Museum of Art, which is set for March 2019. She will also be featured in a joint show at The National Arts Club in New York City in October 2018.

"I'm beyond thrilled," Krutick said. "It's really a dream come true."