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February 2014

## Painting With Passion

Jill Krutick Left a Corporate Job For a Career in Art



# Painting With Passion

*Jill Krutick went from being a corporate executive to a full time artist.*

by Brian Radewitz  
Editor

Jill Krutick has always loved art, but her initial career path placed her in an office with a computer instead of a studio with a canvas. For years, the Roslyn native worked as an investment analyst and media executive and she was only able to tap into her true passion during her limited free time.

Just a few years ago, Krutick left the corporate world behind and immersed herself into the art scene. Since then she has won numerous awards for her paintings and has been featured in many exhibitions.

Among many honors in 2013 alone,

Krutick was the featured artist at Ollom Dance Festival in Massachusetts; was a guest curator at artsicle.com; was selected as the Artist of the Month by the Scarsdale Art Association in May; and was juried to participate in the Liz Afif Gallery Exhibition. She recently

took some time to answer a few questions for Roslyn Life.

**Q: How long did you live in Roslyn before moving to Scarsdale?**

I was born in Roslyn and lived there for my entire childhood. My mom still lives in the house I grew up in.

**Q: What initially sparked your interest in art?**

I was always drawn to color and texture, and loved the masters such as Monet and Van Gogh. I took

painting lessons as a child and my mother painted.

**Q: How exactly does an investment analyst and media executive transition into a career as an artist?**

Painting was always something I came back to whenever I had time. I painted during my maternity leaves and whenever I had a respite from work. During my tenure at Warner Music, I started painting in the evenings and devoted increasingly more and more time to art. It was both therapeutic and extremely satisfying. I never realized how much one could express through painting. The more I painted, the more I wanted to paint. Developing a business became a fun experiment that grew over time with the art. Eventually, I began renting and selling paintings across the country to both corporate and private clients; hosting solo and group

shows in corporate spaces in New York City, Westchester and Long Island; hosting Open Studio and charitable events in my home and even broke into the gallery world in Philadelphia and soon to be Bronxville — all in just the past few years!

I'm also exploring turning some of my abstract paintings into fine Tibetan rugs with an extremely talented antique European and oriental rug dealer who just opened a beautiful new store called Heirloom in Locust Valley on Long Island. My work is being featured there as well. Also, in January/February, 2014 I will be hosting a solo show at the Bronxville Woman's Club.

**Q: You have a BS in economics and a MBA in management. Do you have any formal education in the art world?**

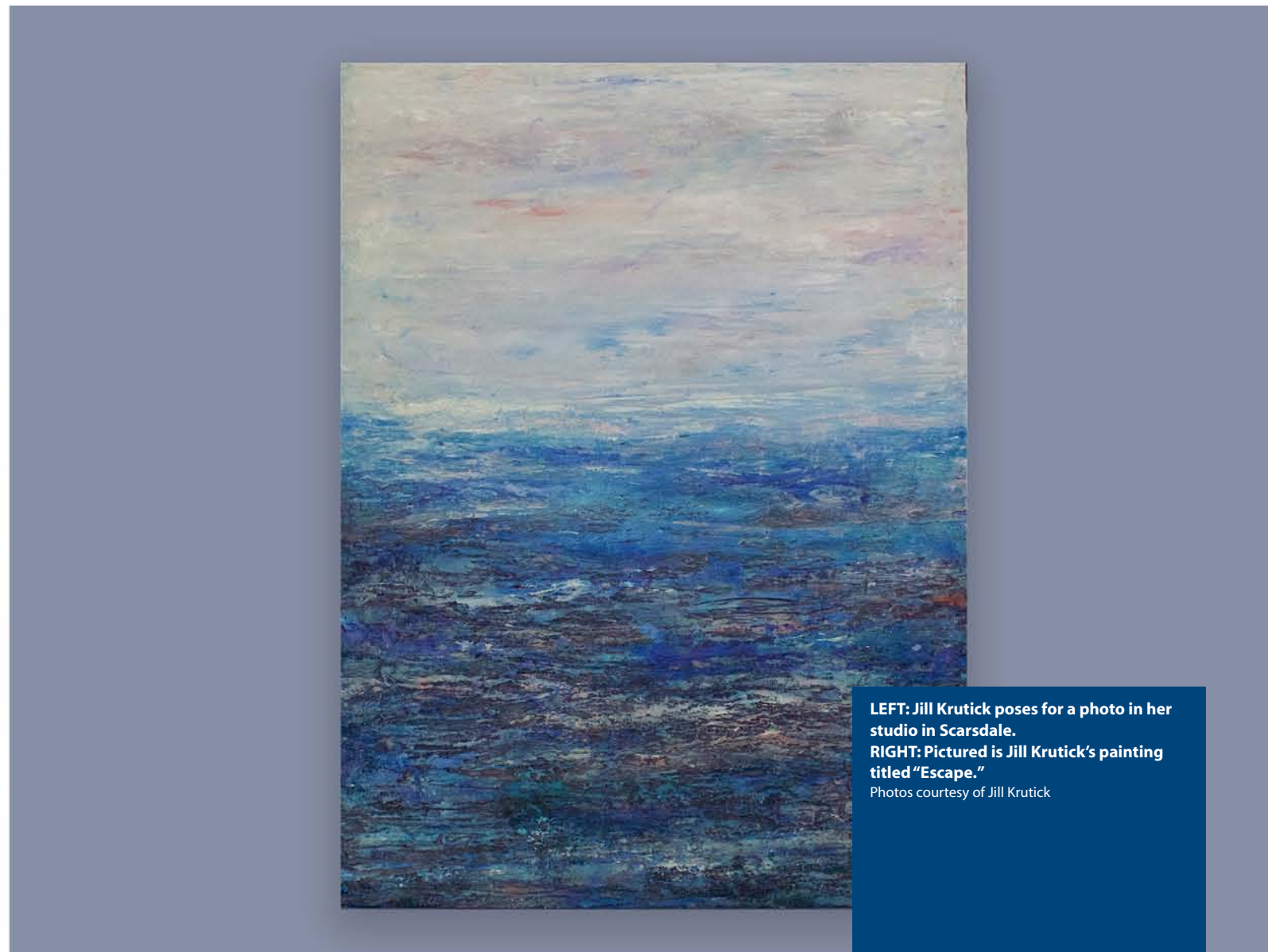
Not really formal ... mostly informal and self-taught. Over the past several

years, I have taken painting classes at the Art Students League and studied with Mariano Del Rosario and Ronnie Landfield. In addition, I have also taken art classes at the Westchester County Center with David Fox. I plan to continue my art education at these and other institutions, develop my photography skills to best capture my art work and fill in my art history knowledge over time. Art is a field that you can constantly learn and grow in.

**Q: What drew you to the abstract form of art over contemporary landscapes, portraits, etc.?**

I enjoy the free form expressionism of abstract, whether it is applied to a landscape or geometric shapes. An exploration of my works should reveal as much about a viewer's emotional

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LEFT: Jill Krutick poses for a photo in her studio in Scarsdale.  
RIGHT: Pictured is Jill Krutick's painting titled "Escape."  
Photos courtesy of Jill Krutick



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The number of years that Jill Krutick has had her work displayed on artsicle.com, beginning in 2011.

## FINDING A KRUTICK

- **Artsicle.com helps artists get** seen by the public. Art lovers can rent pieces from the website, with a portion of the rental fee going to the artist. Works can also be purchased from the site.
- **Krutick will be featured** at the Bronxville Women's Club, located at 135 Midland Avenue in Bronxville throughout the remainder of January and February.
- **Krutick's art typically costs** between \$1,000 and \$5,000 for larger pieces. She also has smaller pieces for lower prices.

\* **To view more of** Krutick's works, visit [jskartstudio.com](http://jskartstudio.com).



Pictured is the artist behind the canvases — **Jill Krutick**.  
Photo courtesy of Jill Krutick



Jill Krutick's painting titled "A New Day."  
Photo courtesy of Jill Krutick

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state as it does mine. The oil painting may be abstract or it may be representational, but what makes the painting come to life is the interplay of light, colors, textures, shapes and spaces.

**Q: How long did you paint before you decided that you wanted to take it seriously and create things people would pay to have in their home or office?**

Within the past five years — as soon as I started painting every day — I quickly transitioned to gifting paintings and then selling them. Today, I work with decorators to find home solutions for their clients. I also work with artist representatives who have individual and corporate clients with specific decorating needs. Sharing and selling my art is extremely satisfying as it gives me the freedom to continue to develop my craft.

**Q: How did it feel when you sold your first painting?**

Awesome! It was very exciting to have someone take the leap and purchase a work of art from me. To know that my painting graces someone's home is a powerful feeling ... and it is this feeling that has given me the confidence to continue to develop artistically and strive to expand my business.

**Q: Where do you draw your inspiration from and how long does a typical painting take?**

I draw my inspiration from everything around me. I collect colors wherever I go. Typically, I'll approach a painting with a short list of colors in mind and a particular strategy towards developing an idea. Inevitably, the color list changes as does the outcome of the painting. It is rare that I execute on a painting with the colors and texture that were originally contemplated.

Each painting is a journey. Some take weeks, others months. Layering the paint gives me the freedom to change the texture and mood of a painting until it is "balanced" and "complete." The completion of a painting, of course, is subjective. However, I do find there is a tipping point when working on a painting — that is, the point when additional work begins to detract from the end result — at which point I know the painting is done.

**Q: Do you have any favorites that you hold onto for yourself and don't want to sell?**

I used to have favorites, but increasingly I'm finding that the more I develop as a painter, the more I can apply effective techniques from one

work to the next. Having said that, I still hold onto the 4-foot by 5-foot oil painting copy of Van Gogh's Cafe Terrace at Night, which I painted in 1995 when I was pregnant with my daughter. In addition, I hold onto the painting called "Jean's Challenge." This 5-foot by 7-foot painting my decorator challenged me to make (after he stretched the canvas for me), to match my bedroom. This was an amazing accomplishment that Jean approved.

**Q: You have received some high praise from the art world over the last few years, how has that felt to enter a completely different world and be accepted and honored in a short period of time?**

It gives me great joy to have people enjoy my art. Having the opportunity to pursue my true passion is very special and I thank my lucky stars! The artist world, I find very welcoming. While it can be difficult to break into galleries, the key is developing your craft and participating in as many shows or opportunities you can find. Being connected to an art school can facilitate many opportunities. For example, through the Art Students League in Manhattan, I have participated in many shows. The shows have taken place in beautiful NYC corporate spaces, the Manhattan Borough President's Office, at the Art Students League and other venues.

**Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring artists?**

Follow your passion. Find masters that you love, study their work, take art classes so you can be surrounded by creativity, and enjoy! The key to developing your art is engaging in it as often as you can. Be open to new ideas. Explore Artsicle. This fairly new emerging artist website is excellent for broadening your creative community in a very productive way. I started with them a few years ago. They offer rentals of art with the option to purchase, among many other services. Today, I collect a monthly stipend from them based on rentals of my work that are still in the marketplace. This helps



Jill Krutick's painting titled "Sand Dunes."  
Photo courtesy of Jill Krutick



Jill Krutick's painting titled "Skyfall."  
Photo courtesy of Jill Krutick

defray the cost of materials, a significant expense for oil painting.

**Q: Where can people go to see and/or purchase your work?**

My website has all my work displayed by size and category of painting — be it landscape or pure abstraction, for example. My larger works gener-

ally range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and the smaller ones are typically less. If someone would like to purchase a piece, they can contact me directly. I also host tours of my studio and home gallery. I am happy to set up appointments for this. My contact info is also on my website: [jskartstudio.com](http://jskartstudio.com).

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