

# Artwork says it all

## ◆ ARTWORK

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Once Marilee's paintings are done, Ed steps in and shoots digital images for listing on their Web site. He meticulously stores each image on film, as negatives and slides, and prints each one before inserting it into a labeled plastic sleeve in a binder.

"We're well backed up," he said.

Ed also takes care of prints, mounting and framing, and the pair recently began a custom-framing business through the studio.

Marilee even has clients from the force. One of her first winter images — "Sugar Shack" — sold almost immediately to a detective friend of Ed's, and the studio she works in was helped along by the law, courtesy of an old-fashioned barn raising in January of 2001.

"We threw it up in two weekends," Ed said. "Fifteen cops."

Standing on the polished floorboards of From the Pines Studio, Ed and Marilee flit between finishing one another's sentences and squabbling. They conduct separate conversations at the same time, interjecting during one another's thoughts.

"Ed's always been the star of the family," Marilee

began.

"She picked up a brush for the first time seven years ago," Ed countered.

"So I'm not used to notoriety of my own yet," added Marilee (who is LARAC's artist of the month for February).

"She was just great from the start," Ed concluded.

Marilee seems doggedly determined to stay out of the limelight, while Ed is focused on thrusting her into it.

In Marilee's self portrait, all you can see is the lower part of her body protruding from behind a canvas she's working on.

"No photographs," she said, brusquely. "That's me on the walls."

"She's very shy in front of the camera," added Ed.

"Even at weddings, she runs to the bathroom to hide."

But her images don't hide. One is currently being hung inside the Fort William Henry Resort and Conference Center, measuring a conspicuous 5 feet by 6 feet, according to Ed.

"No, it was 3 by 4," argued Marilee.

"No, it's 5 by 6, because it wouldn't fit in the truck," Ed shot back.

"Whatever," conceded Marilee.

It doesn't really matter to Marilee. Ed can talk all he wants. Her pictures will speak for themselves.