

From Hobbyist to Established Artist — Overnight

Roni Doppelt was experimenting with water color paintings when her husband fell in love with one of her completed works. Brushing it off as a classical case of a spouse not wanting to hurt any feelings or just trying to be nice, Roni seriously doubted her husband's praise.

But when the couple took her work to a local framer and was offered cash instantly, she thought that she might have some talent after all. And as more and more people offered to buy her works, she started to believe her husband's praise. Maybe she did have some artistic talent after all.

After receiving the first commission to display her works in a local gallery, nine pieces sold the first day. Not bad for a budding, still somewhat skeptical, artist.

And in less than one year after her husband first recognized his wife's talent and insisted that first piece be framed, Doppelt has put works on display in several Palm Beach galleries and has been commissioned by a number of interior design firms to create works for private residences.

It all started out as a hobby.

"I had a few art classes in high school and college, but no real formal art training," Doppelt said. "After all, you don't get much art training as a business major."

Roni is one of those rare individuals who does everything well. In addition to becoming a recognized art talent, Doppelt is an avid golfer. Last year she was on the winning Pro-Am team with Sam Snead at Gleneagles Country Club in Delray Beach. To do her part in the winning combination, she shot a blistering 8 under her handicap. She also plays tennis and water skis as a hobby — just as her painting.

"As a hobby, painting is enjoyable," she said. "It's like my golf, tennis and other hobbies. I do them because they are enjoyable. If they weren't fun, I wouldn't bother."

Doppelt specializes in water colors, although she has experimented with oils and other forms of art. Her success with designers and private clients has come from the ability to match color schemes requested by the client.

"I use the pieces of tile, swatches of fabric, and other materials from interior designers as the guidelines for my paintings," she said. "My art is interesting, yet blends in with the color scheme of the home. I enjoy creating pieces for people's homes."

Many of her pieces are on display at the Designer's Workroom in Boca Raton.

"It's still hard for me to believe that my works are being bought by interior designers, art galleries and people who know and appreciate art," Doppelt said. "But as long as this is still enjoyable I'll keep painting."

Until she finds another successful hobby.