

Books Suitable For Framing

By Rick Steigmeyer, World staff writer

WENATCHEE — A book is a piece of art for Jill Timm. Ever since she was a grade-school girl with a love for science fiction, Timm has had the urge to be more than just a transient reader of books. She wanted to create them. Not as a writer, but as an artist whose canvas is a bound sheaf of pages.

Timm, living in Wenatchee, has turned that childhood desire into her dream career. Her limited edition handcrafted art books can be found in art libraries, galleries and private collections throughout the world.

The books are unlike what you would check out at a library and sit down and read on a chilly winter evening. Timm makes every page a picture frame for her images. The way the pages present themselves, the binding and the book's slipcase all work in harmo-

go into each project.

The artworks themselves often defy description. "Winter Elk" is a Wyoming landscape of an elk herd feeding on a wintery field. Remove the 5-by-7-inch book from its slipcover and it opens much like a children's pop-up book. Timm's photographs in the book *Falling Leaves* are printed on several separate transparent layers that pull out to form a three-dimensional scene that quivers with movement and shimmers with light.

"Ship Wreck," a miniature book slightly larger than 2 inches square, is composed of about 20 color photos of the Peter Iredale, a sailing ship that wrecked on an Oregon beach in 1906. Timm wanted the book to give the viewer the feel of the shipwreck so she bound the pages between



Jill Timm looks at holes she is drilling into the plexiglass book cover for "Winter White," a miniature art book with photographs of winter scenes. Timm uses different materials to construct her books depending on the subject matter of the volume. (World photo/Don Seabrook)

California before returning to college to earn a Masters in Fine Arts degree at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

The degree landed her a job with IBM in Austin developing multimedia and computer graphics for the company's software products. The money was good, but it didn't make her happy. She discovered artist books after a happenstance visit to a book show that featured artist specializing in the unique art form.

"I saw an artist book and my stomach just started fluttering. I knew I had to be doing this," she recalled. The books were not unlike what she had done for friends for years. She made a book to sell at the next book show and it quickly sold out. "I realized I was on to something."

Her work doesn't make her a fortune but it does make her happy.



Jill Timm holds "Rainbow," a miniature book she produced in her Wenatchee studio. (World photo/Don Seabrook)

ny with the subject matter, which most often depicts an experience in nature or a trip to a wilderness area. Timm counts nature photographer Ansel Adams and environmental writer John Muir among her heroes.

Timm, who quit her day job as a computer technician in 2000 to pursue her book-making career. "Now I finally have my perfect job, but it took being a photographer, an artist, a graphic artist, a teacher, a computer person and a marketer to get here."

Her studio includes an assortment of bulk ink-fed printers, computers and stacks of plastic boxes filled with art supplies and collected paper and materials that

two thick pieces of rusted steel. The book was a 2004 winner of the Distinguished Book Award from the international Miniature Book Society and quickly sold out.

All of Timm's books are limited to fewer than 100 copies and often much less. Many are one of a kind.

"I have so many ideas. There's not enough time." Subjects of books in progress include Christo's Central Park art construction, "The Gates". Timm grew up in Southern California and studied art in San Diego and at Utah State University. She worked as a photographer, graphic artist and printmaker in Southern



Jill Timm works on a book in her studio. She completely produces the books herself from the photographs and writings to the covers and interior pages. (World photo/Don Seabrook)

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