

# Art star grew up in Saskatoon

By Irene Seiberling, The Leader-Post  
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Who says you can't make a living as an artist?

Certainly not Saskatchewan-born and -raised artist Sheila Kernan.

Despite attempts to steer her in another direction - her mother suggested she become a dental hygienist - Kernan persevered.

For the past four years, she's worked full time as an artist in Calgary. Now, at age 28, Kernan has already enjoyed more commercial success than many artists do in a lifetime.

Kernan's first solo show in her home province is on display at Regina's Assiniboia Gallery. About half of the 22 paintings in the exhibit - a combination of cityscapes and landscapes, including night time cityscapes, local prairie scenes, as well as Canadian waterfalls - sold within the first week, pointed out gallery owner Mary Weimer. Prices range from \$900 to \$5,000.

"This is the first time that we have had a solo show with an artist that is younger than us," said 34-year-old Weimer, who runs the Assiniboia Gallery with her 35-year-old husband, Jeremy.

"To be so successful at this age is phenomenal," Weimer said.

To meet the cross-Canada demand for her work, Kernan paints close to 100 cityscapes and landscapes each year.

"I do contemporary urban scenes, as well as landscapes," Kernan said. "It's a multimedia painting. So they're generally a mixture of oil and acrylic and other little tidbits, consisting of airbrushing, washes, stencilling and layering of textural components - whatever gets the job done if I want a specific look."

Kernan grew up in Saskatoon. She took art lessons from Gail Adams. In high school, her teacher Kevin Sikorsky "marched me down to the principal's office and stood by my side until I had enrolled in every art class that Marion Graham offered," she says on her website, [www.sheilakernan.com](http://www.sheilakernan.com). She has her BFA from the Alberta College of Art and Design.

Kernan is disciplined when it comes to creating art. Not only is it her passion; it's her job. So she works in her home studio from about 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily, putting in up to 15 hours a day when necessary.

"I'm very ambitious," she said. "I just love doing what I do. It's just amazing that I have been able to realize my dream so quickly."

The key to being a successful artist is no different than any other career - dedication, luck and hard work, Kernan insists. "I think it's all about how hard you work. Obviously talent. And dedication. And just determination to be able to do well or do what you love."

Kernan said she always knew she would pursue a career in art. "It was just ingrained in me. It just seemed like a great fit."

Kernan's solo show at the Assiniboia Gallery, at 2266 Smith St., continues to June 24.

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