

## Vacation over, artist goes back to Europe

*Maribel Villalva*

El Paso artist **Ann James Massey** left town Friday to return to Europe, where she has been living for eight years.

She needs to be in London on Tuesday to drop off work for the Society of Women Artists 141st Annual Exhibition. After that, she will return to her home in Paris.



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Massey had been in El Paso since late October. She arrived just in time for her induction to the El Paso Artists Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the International Association for the Visual Arts.

She was inducted along with El Paso artist **Ernesto Pedregon Martinez**.

Massey makes it a point to return to El Paso once a year, around the holidays, to spend time with family and friends. While here, she conducted a three-day workshop on "The Art of Drawing & Overcoming Common Mistakes," at the El Paso Marriott, which was very well attended.

But, more important, Massey was able to sell two of her paintings to El Pasoans **Gerald and Stanlee Rubin** of Helen of Troy. The couple bought "The Connoisseur," which has garnered many awards in the past two years, and "The Marionette Shop," which is still in production.

Massey said she's glad that some of her art gets to stay in El Paso.

She's borrowing one of her paintings, "La Maison de Poupées," which was bought by El Pasoan **Sharon Verlander**. Massey is using the piece for the coming show in London.

Many El Pasoans remember Massey as the owner of Massey Fine Arts in Santa Teresa. But Massey said that running a gallery took her away from her passion: painting.

"I will never own another gallery," she said.

So she followed one of her dreams and went to Paris, where she has been painting and entering juried competitions around the world.

When Massey returns to Paris, she said, she's going to look into buying an apartment. For the past eight years, she's been renting.

"I've finally decided to stay a while," she said.

Later this year, Massey will be the judge of the first National Colored-Pencil Exhibition in England. She was chosen for the job last year when she was at an art fair Nottingham. Massey said it was an honor to be asked.

"Here I am, a girl from El Paso, being the very first judge for this exhibit. That's exciting," she said.

Massey puts out a newsletter about once a year. But those not on her mailing list can see her work and hear about her newest adventures by going to her Web site, [www. annjamesmassey.com](http://www.annjamesmassey.com).

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