

# Avondale artist Jerry Squire draws attention

Nancy Brandt, Special for the Republic | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com) 6:57 a.m. MST October 3, 2014



*(Photo: Jerry Squire)*

*Submitted by Nancy Brandt.*

Think the Southwest Valley is devoid of the arts? Not so. They are alive and well in an area bubbling with talent.

For instance, the Historic Avondale Merchants Association hosts the monthly Second Saturday Art Walk on Western Avenue 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. Catitude Gallery and Studio in Avondale selects a local artist to feature in the gallery each month.

Young would-be string musicians have an opportunity to hone their skills under the guidance of a professional director as part of the West Valley Youth Orchestra and Creative Arts Academy, which offers art instruction for students of all ages.

Catitude Gallery and Studio's featured artist for October is homemaker and mother turned artist turned writer Jerry Squire.

Squire, an Arizona native and longtime Avondale resident, began her art career through a series of improbable events.

A course at Estrella Mountain Community College opened the door for her. That's when things got interesting. Instead of a class on oil or watercolor painting, the instructor was limited to pencil because the buildings were new and the administrators didn't want them "messed up."

Undaunted, Squire signed up and to her amazement discovered that she was very talented — and she fell in love with pencil art.

An impairment in one eye threatened to sidetrack her progress because it created a depth-perception problem. Putting her creative juices to work she came up with a grid system that allows her to add depth to her work.

A car show at PIR piqued her interest in drawing automobiles. She noticed the fascinating reflections on some of the fenders and thought, "Wow. What a picture." Back in her studio she transferred what she had seen to paper. The result not only pleased her, it drew praise from those who viewed the finished work. Today, her catalog also includes portraits, animals and scenic drawings.

Her love for the area's past led Squire to write two books on Avondale history. Her latest, "Avondale" is available at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com) (<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>) for \$21.99.



Squire fell in love with pencil art and discovered a talent in a course at Estrella Mountain Community College. Today, her portfolio includes portraits and drawings of animals and cars. *(Photo: Jerry Squire)*