

# At Ano's Art, projects are as personal as life's lessons

## Cedar Hills classes

Children have lots of time and a multitude of forms to explore and work with

Ano's Art, a new art school in Cedar Hills, avoids a "cookie cutter" approach in which children of a certain age group all learn the same subject at the same time, says artist-owner Ano Youssefian. It's not, "I give them one direction and everybody is following me," she said.

Instead, a visitor to one of Youssefian's classes, which begin today, might find a 10-year-old carving rock, a 17-year-old painting with watercolors, a 7-year-old lying on the floor drawing and a 13-year-old silk-screening.

It's an approach Youssefian used at Oregon College of Art & Craft and Catlin Gabel School, where she taught for 13 years before deciding to pursue a lifelong dream and start her own academy. She likes multiage classrooms because "the older ones foster the younger ones."

The classes are not open to children younger than 6, however. "I believe wholeheartedly that preschool and kindergarten is a time you just play," said Youssefian, who describes her art classes as "quite intense."

Students can choose from more than a dozen art forms, including metal and rock carving, silk screening, clay, paper, collage and several types of drawing and painting.

Youssefian will visit with all students one-on-one during the



JOEL DAVIS/THE OREGONIAN

Ano Youssefian hangs art in her new classroom at Ano's Art, an Academy for Creative Minds in Cedar Hills. Youssefian, an art educator who has long been active in local art organizations, has dedicated her new business to the memory of her mother.

## Ano's Art, An Academy for Creative Minds

**Where:** 10220 S.W. Park Way,  
Cedar Hills Shopping Center

**When:** Opens today, offering  
10-week sessions at different  
days and times, as well as summer  
camps

**Cost:** Classes cost about \$16 an  
hour and run once a week for  
1½ or two hours

### Information and signup:

[www.anosart.com](http://www.anosart.com) or  
503-292-9278

classes to monitor their work and help them figure out how to get the effect they want.

As they work, students will listen to storytelling and music CDs

from all over the world — treasures Youssefian shares along with the art.

She is particularly interested in helping the students learn about life through their art projects. "Our lives are very, very fast," Youssefian said. "When we come to the art class, time is not important. I want that child to give 100 percent, to stick with that one project until it's fully done, to understand that in real life, not everything happens just with the push of a button."

Such dedication teaches students to be patient, she said. "You don't have to do five works in a 10-week session. Do one but do it well, so within 10 years you see this artwork in your home and say, 'My God — how did I do that?'"

— Jill Smith