

## Entertainment

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### SKETCHBOOK

## Female artists are forging their own way

Artists who go their own way are profiles in courage. They do what they think, not what others think, and often they go without. Yet without them, we'd go without. We wouldn't have had Impressionism, or any other "ism" now in favor, if artists didn't go their own way. Meet some in our midst.

### Nancy Sabattini

You may wonder why I've included an artist who makes chandeliers. Granted it's a craft, not a fine art but hey, if Dale Chihuly can get into fine art journals with glassworks that hang from ceilings, why not Sabattini?

I'll let her tell you why not: "My intension is to make one-of-a-kind art pieces that make people feel good when they look at the objects . . . I think my chandeliers look like jewelry all full of sparkle and light."

Her creative process goes like this: She finds classic 1930s-era Spanish and Italian chandeliers at antique shops and estate sales and gives them a contemporary twist with crystal and Plexiglas.

In the dining room of her Sarasota home is a virtual waterfall of dangling strips of Plexiglas that allows glimpses of the '30s Spanish metal and crystal lady within.

"In many ways, my chandeliers reflect my values: good workmanship, respect for history and preservation."

All this and not a smidgen of art education. Now that's courage, folks.

*Her work is on display at The Dancing Crane Gallery, 1019 10th Ave W , Village of the Arts, Bradenton. Information: 744-1333.*

*Joan Altabe, a local writer and arts and architecture expert, appears Thursdays in the Herald. She is also the author of the book, "Art Behind the Scenes: One Hundred Masters In and Out of Their Studios" (\$14.95, Windstorm Creative, 2005). She can be reached at [jaltabe2@msn.com](mailto:jaltabe2@msn.com).*