



Mars, 5, lent a hand to help spread paint in his father's painting called "Collaboration." Image courtesy of the artist.

That the Orfanos' work is similar should come as no surprise, Judi says, given their parallel backgrounds: Both attended Montserrat College of Art for illustration then went on to the Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida. Also 14 years of couple-hood has had an effect on their work.

"Living together, we influence each other," Judi says.

"One of her birds might show up in one of my paintings just because I'm used to seeing them," Greg adds.

Mars' drawings also serve as inspirational fuel for both artists. "I did my interpretation of a drawing he did where there was this winged monster walking a house on a leash," Greg says.

The moving house motif is particularly apropos these days given that the Orfanos' are gearing up to relocate from Beverly later this month. They've recently given up their day jobs, Greg as an artist for Whole Foods and Judi as a college admissions counselor, to move to Connecticut to be closer to Judi's family. Though the future remains uncertain, Greg says it will undoubtedly contain art. "[It's] a fulltime job for us," he says. "It's not a hobby."

As for his son's future, although it would be great if Mars grew up to be an artist, dad says he'll encourage him no matter what he decides to pursue, even "if he wants to be an accountant."

It's clear though that even at five, Mars has left his mark on his parents' art and not just with his paint-smearred fingers. Since his birth, Judi says, they've been forced to juggle painting around parenting, something that's helped to loosen up their approach to illustration.

"Before him things were much more literal," she says. "He's brought the abstract into our lives. He helps us to let go."

Check out the Orfanos' work at their art opening Thursday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at Gulu-Gulu Café. Live music by jazz guitarist [Chris Jenkins](#) starts at 8. Their artwork will be on exhibit until July 1. To preview or purchase the Orfanos' paintings visit gregorfanos.com.



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