



Creative Chateau

all photos: Terri Meyer

Terri Meyer's passion for art has taken on a new direction. It's called Creative Chateau, a picturesque event venue nestled in the heart of Amish country on County Road 1575 in Ashland County.

Meyer, a painter and sculptor, is the founder of Creative Chateau, which started out as a simple art gallery back in 1999. But now the historic 1860s dairy barn has blossomed into a premier venue for weddings, corporate events, retreats and family reunions.

It's been a labor of love...literally. Love for the arts—Terri's first passion—and love for the man she met along the way.

In April of 1999, Terri quit her human resources job in Las Vegas and returned to her hometown of Ashland to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a freelance artist. In doing so, she also recon-

nected that summer with Dan Meyer, a former classmate, at their 20-year high school reunion.

Dan hired her to do a painting of his 1882 farmhouse, which she did using as a reference vintage photographs from the 1920s. They began dating and were married in June of 2002. "The story is about passion," she admitted. "I took a

leap of faith and did what my heart told me to do."

Dan, a mason contractor, had already purchased the 28-acre farm with hopes of saving the house, which had "a lot of character

and good bones." He wasted no time in fixing the roof and stabilizing the foundation of the barn. Combining their talents for building and design, they launched their official renovation on Thanksgiving Day 2000.

They started with the house, which was gutted. The old summer kitchen was removed to make way for a larger kitchen and garage. The

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old kitchen was converted back to a dining room, while the upper level, formerly four bedrooms and an attic, was remodeled into a master suite with vaulted ceilings.

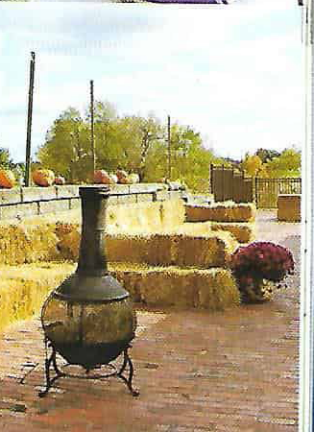
"The magnitude and disrepair was unimaginable," Terri Meyer said. "We look back at this now and can't believe what shape it was in. But we're workaholics. We work well together, so we've been able to accomplish a lot."

And work they did.

Terri of course used her artistic talents to decorate the interior. She painted elaborate mu-

Moving day was March 18, 2002. Since then, a wraparound porch has been added, the basement finished and the milk house turned into a garden shed. Outside, Dan built two stone bridges and sidewalks using 100-year-old paving bricks, which had been dug up from the streets of nearby Jeromesville during a sewer project.

The Creative Chateau Gallery was born that year. Housed in the barn, it served as an art studio for Terri, offering everything from basic picture framing to commissioned pieces. But the project didn't stop there.



left
The Creative Chateau Barn and Conservatory (view from Interstate 71)

below
A wedding celebration on the lower courtyard



als on the ceilings in the master bedroom, bathroom and formal office and added faux finishing touches throughout the house, including a "leaf" wall in the sewing room—a Meyer original.

Working on a shoe-string budget, they scouted auctions for unique finds, such as the reclaimed brick, arched windows and many of the home's furnishings. Other interesting architectural elements, she said, were salvaged from a school in Indiana.

A formal courtyard off the kitchen was completed in 2007. The studio was expanded to include gallery space as well as an office for Dan's masonry business. In addition, more than

continues...