Leslie Neumann

Some artists are lucky enough to hang their work in a local restaurant, where they might sell a piece or two. But Florida artist Leslie Neumann takes luck—and talent—to a whole new level with her relationship with Firebirds Wood Fired Grill.

Neumann has had paintings commissioned by the restaurant chain since it opened its first location around 2000. That's right, a restaurant *chain*. There are almost 40 Firebirds across the country and Neumann was commissioned to produce original work for each and every one, including one of its latest additions and its only eatery in Florida, which just happens to be in Orlando in the trendy Mills 50 District.

"Firebirds believes in a local approach that goes beyond just the flavor. We believe in supporting our guests within the communities we serve," says Vice President of Marketing, Stephen R. Loftis. "As our first location in Florida, Orlando is special to us for so many reasons, including Leslie's critically acclaimed artwork. Her unique, eclectic style is aligned with who we are and what keeps our guests coming back for more—the full-spectrum dining experience that stands above the rest."

Neumann's bright creations are a combination of paint and hot wax known as encaustic that depict otherworldly landscapes and imaginative vistas with unique dimension and colors. The vibrant hues of greens with splashes of yellow and red seem to calm and entrance viewers. Neumann describes what she does as "painting scenes of enchanted forests with bursts of fire"—and that vision is what Firebirds supports and what makes their relationship work.

From original artwork to an innovative menu, Neumann and Firebirds make a pair that packs a creative punch. For more about Firebirds, visit orlando.firebirdsrestaurants.com. For more about Neumann and her art, log on to LeslieNeumann.com. oam

Above: Firebirds' chile rubbed Delmonico (every steak is hand cut daily) and signature accompaniments: a towering spinach salad and a double black diamond martini

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