

# A feast for the eyes



Photo by Mary Yancey Parks

'Murals and More' is just finishing its mural that lines the wall at Four Seasons Produce. Pictured are artists, Michael Cooper (front), Susan Working (left) and Anna Marie Caudill.

## Mural adorns store's new location

By MARY YANCEY PARKS  
Staff Writer

It's a toss-up as to which is more appealing. The produce? Or the painting?

In a fresh approach to selling natural and chemical-free fruits and foods, the Four Seasons Produce market has gone above and beyond the typical attempt to please the customer eye as well the palate.

The "above and beyond" specifically being the newly-finished, massive mural painted on the wall above the goods -- circling the entire store.

Meredith Hudgins and Rhonda Johnson, owners of Four Seasons Produce, contracted 'Murals and More' to paint the delightful and highly detailed mural to give shoppers something more than melons and 'maters to mull over.

Many customers at the natural foods market in Maple Row Shopping Center have found themselves pleasantly surprised -- if not shocked -- by the painting that subtly transforms from scene to scene around the store.

Hudgins said, "One man came up to me and said, 'Usually I sit in the car when my wife shops, but I wanted to come in and see this.'

"That's the typical response," he said. "They (artists at Murals and More) have done such a super job."

Michael Cooper, founder/owner of Murals and More, and his two artists, Susan Working and Anna Marie Caudill, will finish the mural this week after its six-week creation.

"We're on a tight schedule now," Cooper said. "This is running about two weeks longer than we had expected."

It's no surprise after witnessing the multiple themes, square footage and extreme detail.

The Four Seasons mural has several scenes cascading into each other. Depicted counter clockwise

around the wall are an open-air market, outdoor cafe and street scene, farmland wheats and grains, orchards, a water mill with pond, dairy farm and finally a scene that shows people playing outdoors.

Roughly, Cooper said, the mural reflects the area of what is sold underneath the painting.

These artists are no strangers to leaving their lasting, large-scale labor of love on interior and exterior walls throughout several states in the Southeast. Their paints have brushed the likes of St. Louis, Memphis, Bowling Green and Chattanooga. Many of the exterior murals in downtown Nashville are also products of Murals and More.

Of the commercial exterior work to their credit is the Vanderbilt-sports themed mural on the West End Ave. store, You Greek Me Greek; the mural of a 50-foot aquarium on Nashville's corner at 20th and Charlotte; the mural at Nashville's Legends Corner of a tavern scene that incorporates 21 portraits of Country Music legends.

One mural is featured in a television commercial for Southwest Airlines. Cooper said the mural is a 24-foot postcard painted on 5th Ave., near the Nashville Arena where BR-549 shot a commercial for Southwest using the mural as a backdrop. Cooper is also notably responsible for designing the mural on the Hard Rock Cafe as well -- even though someone else painted it.

Murals and More paints just as many interior murals for private homes - and one such project follows as soon as they fold their tarps at Four Seasons.

Cooper said, "I've been painting murals all my life. Literally since I was a little kid." He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in interior design from the University of Memphis and went to work in a related field of study.

After a suggestion to go into the mural business,  
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