

**CHERI BLUM**

**W**ild Apple Graphics, fine art publisher and licensing company, is sad to announce that leading artist Cheri Blum of Georgetown, Maryland died Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2003, in her home by the beautiful Sassafras River in Georgetown. She was 34.

Ms. Blum was born Sept. 24, 1969, in Baltimore, daughter of Joseph and Joanne Novotny Blum of Earleville. She was a 1987 graduate of St. Mark's High School, Wilmington, DE, and had followed her dream of becoming an artist when she entered the Fine Arts Program at Marywood University, Scranton, PA, and graduated from the University of Delaware in 1991.

Wild Apple has published Blum's art since 1996 and licensed her work since 1999. Ms. Blum became widely known for her applied artistry, where she had perfected a method of painting on cracked linen that conjures up images of Italian frescoes and simulates the effects of time and weather. Her artwork and personal interpretation of beauty struck a resounding chord with consumers and has been a dominant force in the home decorating industry. "Cheri Blum was an artist, innovator, and prolific creator of beauty. She has been an important part of our company's success and a cherished member of the Wild Apple family," said Laurie Chester, Wild Apple co-founder. "We will miss her greatly."

Ms. Blum's artwork has been highly successful in both open edition prints and licensed product. Her extensive list of over 40 licensees includes Croscill for bed and bath, Mohawk Rugs, Amcal calendars, Glitterwrap for giftwrap and Wallquest, which has produced a complete Cheri Blum wallpaper collection. Cheri Blum's life was celebrated at a Catholic mass of Christian burial on Monday, November 10, 2003 at Corpus Christi Church in Elsmere, DE. In addition to her parents, she is survived by three brothers and a sister-in-law, Christopher and Denise Blum of Warwick, Craig E. Blum of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., and Cary A. Blum of Wilmington; her maternal grandparents, Frank and Genevieve Novotny of Hanover, Pa.; two nephews, Chase Blum and Evan Blum; a niece, Cassidy Blum; and extended family and friends, who will sadly miss her.



**RIP SQUEAK AND HIS FRIENDS**

**L**eonard Filgate's magical images from the series of books, *Rip Squeak and His Friends*, by Filgate and his wife, Susan Yost-Filgate, are available as limited edition fine art prints, in galleries throughout the US and Canada. The children's books are available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, and many independent bookstores across the country. Other products, including art books, posters, figurines, greeting cards, and puzzles are

carried by some of the retailers who carry Rip Squeak images and at [www.RipSqueak.com](http://www.RipSqueak.com). Filgate's art will be featured in a one-man show, *Pirate Tales And Beyond: The Adventures of Rip Squeak & Friends*, opening November 2004 at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. The

books have garnered a book award, a spell on the Los Angeles Times Children's Bestseller list, and won Filgate the honor of being the featured illustrator for the 2003 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. Rip Squeak, Inc. the company which publishes the art and books and holds the worldwide licensing rights to the Rip Squeak and His Friends characters, states that a movie or TV series and numerous international licensing deals are currently under discussion.

**GRACE PULLEN ENTERS WORLD OF LICENSING**

**C**ountry artist, Grace Pullen recently signed five new licensing agreements, the first since recently signing with licensing agent and publisher Sagebrush Fine Art. New licenses included Highland Graphics for kitchen décor, York Wallcoverings for a juvenile wall border, scrapbooking products with Karen Foster Designs, decorative plates with Wide-Eyed Designs and Iatwah for candles. Several other licenses are currently under discussion.

