

# The Boston Globe

APRIL 27, 2014

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## Wooden studio doors in Gloucester

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MARK LORENZ FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

IN CONVERTING HER GARAGE INTO A STUDIO, ARTIST MELODY PHANEUF HAD THE WOODEN DOORS CUSTOM-MADE, SEEING THEM AS A SYMBOLIC PORTAL INTO NEW SPACE.

Project: Studio doors  
MELODY PHANEUF  
GLOUCESTER

*General contractor Nicola Bach and carpenter David Silva, Gloucester*

The way Melody Phaneuf sees it, the wooden doors on her garage-turned-studio are an enchanting portal into a new space.

“It’s kind of symbolic; it’s kind of ‘once upon a time,’” she said.

Information she found on wisdomportal.com, taken from “An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Traditional Symbols” by J.C. Cooper, described doors as both opportunity and liberation. A door,

it said, is a symbolic portal of “hope; opportunity; opening; passage from one state or world to another; entrance to new life; initiation.”

Phaneuf, a painter, has a studio in Boston, but also wanted a studio at her Gloucester home. “I had one of those little metal garages that was rusting and falling down,” she said.

Her general contractor, Nicola Bach, chose David Silva for the job, which cost about \$4,500. Silva, of DCR Carpentry and Remodeling, said Phaneuf gave him a napkin sketch and shared her thoughts about what the doors should look like. They brainstormed and looked at photos online.

Phaneuf initially planned to paint the doors blue to match the trim on her 100-year-old house, but when she saw how beautiful the wood was, she decided against it. Instead, she chose blue water glass for the windows.

“[The doors] really just made all of the difference with this building looking like a garage or a little enchanted carriage house,” she said. “People see the doors and want to come in.”

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