

ST. LOUIS SPLENDOR: AN ADULT COLORING BOOK

With age comes wisdom - right? But there's one lesson we're learning from the kiddos: coloring is fun!

Artist Jo Ann Kargus has tapped into this recent trend with her book, "*St. Louis Splendor: An Adult Coloring Book*". Her hand-drawn images in black and white need only a splash (or several) of color! The generous fifty-page spread includes iconic images from around town, including the Arch, Faust Park Carousel, Missouri Botanical Garden, and some lesser-known gems. Kargus featured the Donut Drive-In on Route 66, in part due to fond childhood memories, "It was a real treat to go there as a kid. We'd watch them make the donuts, and it smelled heavenly. It still does!" The giant Vess soda bottle, formerly of south St. Louis, also gets its due along with Ted Drewes and other nostalgic landmarks.

"*St. Louis Splendor*" has been a top seller at indie bookstores for several weeks and will surely be a popular holiday gift. One reason for its success is the relaxing effects coloring can have. "Many people have told me that coloring helps them unwind; it can have a meditative quality. It's a great – and creative - way to de-stress", says Kargus.

Jo Ann Kargus has been an architectural illustrator in St. Louis for over thirty years and was asked by the publisher, Reedy Press, to draw landmarks for the book.

St. Louis Splendor retails for \$15.95 at several area bookstores and gift shops, including Artmart and The Bug Store. It is also available online from Amazon and Barnes & Noble. For more information and book signings, go to joannkargus.com.