

WESTON CLOSE-UP

Pieter Bouterse

HOME: Born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Cleveland resident for over 30 years

PROFESSION: Owner, Pieter Bouterse Studio

ABOUT HIS BUSINESS. A special events decorator who "makes people happy". Started in events decoration after discovering that importing flowers from Holland was insufficient for the creation of a business model. He added the next step by presenting and making use of the flowers.

PASSIONS: His Standard Schnauzer. "I'm going to teach her to play chess someday. She goes everywhere I go." Look for him toting his new, shorter, 10' kayak from his Bay Village home to the Lake. "I can kayak anywhere."

ON THE HORIZON: A trip to France, Spain and Italy with his wife, Ann. "I am revisiting my backyard playground."

WESTON LEASE: 5,800 square feet in Cleveland.

WHY WESTON: "I had been in this building and knew its previous owner. When Weston took over I was concerned. Would the personal touch disappear? Quite the contrary. I needed more space and the principals arranged it. I wanted to build out the warehouse myself and they allowed it. They have a great sense of humor and allow people to grow their businesses. It's like a partnership. They are always sensitive to my needs."

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