IN THE HANDS OF ALCHEMY is a portrait of artist Jerry Wennstrom whose work and life have become one — a spontaneous exercise in joy and an inspiration to all who aspire to make art out of life.

By the 1970s Jerry had acquired a loft space in Nyack, NY, and was leading the life of a young, successful artist, frequently delving into the dark side in his work. However, he eventually “painted himself out of painting.” Unattached to his creations, he decided the ultimate creative leap was to destroy his work. “It was a powerful, holy experience that left me shaken and empty, but exhilarated,” says Jerry. He walked out of his loft, and for the next ten years lived with nothing, trusting God to take care of him. His journey eventually led him to meet and marry teacher and singer Marilyn Strong, and birth art from his free and unconditioned soul.

Jerry Wennstrom is an ordinary man who has made the extraordinary choice to live, work, and be in a state of surrender to the will of divine energy. IN THE HANDS OF ALCHEMY is a documentary of this choice and its effect.

The film features friends and colleagues as well as the monks of the Depung-Loseling Tibetan Monastery. Appended to the half-hour piece is a 15-minute homage to the enormous body of work destroyed prior to Jerry’s transition.

“One of the most magnificent things about Jerry’s life is its profound and courageous innocence. He has created a tremendous friendship with a part of himself which is in love with the world, and his artistry displays that. Jerry is one of the few people I know who, in a very quiet way, has actually claimed his happiness in existence.”

— David Whyte, poet

“A delightful film, an alchemical mixture of inspiration, spirituality, art and the story of a remarkable human being.” — David Spangler, author of Parent as Mystic, Mystic as Parent

“A tremendous inspiration.” — Tsultrim Allione, author of Women of Wisdom

New! Includes a 45 minute Feature Presentation by Jerry Wennstrom

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Audio engineering: Rob Swanson
Jacket design: GraysonDesign.net
www.handsofalchemy.com

90 MINUTE DVD INCLUDES 3 SPECIAL FEATURES:
1) In the Hands of Alchemy
2) NEW! A feature presentation by Jerry Wennstrom and Marilyn Strong before an audience at their studio on Whidbey Island, WA
3) A 15 minute homage to Jerry’s early work, 1979 by Deborah Koff-Chapin and Mark Sadan

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The Art and Life of Jerry Wennstrom