

ART

Art & Business

Local businesses showcase local artists, thanks to the support of the Center for the Arts.

BY *Laura Halckenhauser*

Walk into Lake Sunapee Bank, and the art on the walls in the lobby isn't mass produced. It's local. That's because Lake Sunapee Bank is one of the four businesses designated as a Micro Gallery along New London, N.H.'s Main Street.

Hosting art galleries in local businesses is the work of the Center for the Arts, an all-volunteer organization based in New London. Ross Gott, owner of ZeroCelsius Wealth Studio, is the Micro Gallery visionary. "I proposed the idea to Annie Ballin, the previous executive director, a friend of mine. ZeroCelsius hosted the first Micro Gallery in 2009," he says. "Representing local artists is our way of supporting the local art community. The rotating artwork only enhances our work space."

"Micro Galleries are a great way to see a variety of art and artists styles," says Jean Cronin Connolly, chair of the Center for the Arts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Center for the Arts! First Friday Gallery Night

Friday, Nov. 6

5 to 7 p.m.

Eat, sip, stroll, and be artsy! Opening Receptions for the 3rd Annual Juried Regional Show and other new exhibits at The New London Inn, Lake Sunapee Bank, ZeroCelsius Wealth Studio and Whipple Hall.

>> All on Main Street,
New London, N.H.

>> Free

>> centerfortheartsnh.org



Artists Barbara Hunting, Grace Cooper, Lisa Jelleme and Vicki Koron at the First Friday Gallery Night at the New London Inn.

"There are many award-winning artists in our own backyard!"

As you view the art, you'll also learn about the business. ZeroCelsius Wealth Studio is eclectic in its modern décor, and the space typically shows more abstract artwork. The realism you will find at ZeroCelsius is the seriousness that Gott, an independent registered investment advisor, offers his clients to actualize their financial goals and dreams.

Every three months, new artwork is installed at each of the Micro Galleries. On the First Friday of the exhibit, the Center for the Arts hosts a Gallery Night, an opening for the public from 5 to 7 p.m. It is a chance to meet the artists, view the art, and enjoy light refreshments.

You may start at ZeroCelsius, or you might start at the other end of Main Street at Whipple Hall. "Whipple Hall is part of

our partnership with the Town of New London and the Recreation Department," says Connolly.

The building has been around since the mid-1800s and has served as the town hall, a moving picture house, a performance theater, and a courtroom. The New London Farmers' Market uses Whipple Hall in the winter months, and it is used for voting at election time. Newer construction has been built on the back side of Whipple Hall, and the Recreation Department office recently moved into that part of the building. The Seaman Road entrance is where the Micro Gallery at Whipple Hall exists.

Just down the street is The New London Inn, which lures people in with its fabulous fare and charming ambiance. You'll find traditional artwork in the inn's living room and the Sargent Room, both Micro Gallery sites. "The Micro Gallery is



Kaitlyn Covell, manager of the Lake Sunapee Bank Main Street branch, and artist Suzanne Cronin at First Friday Gallery Night at the Lake Sunapee Bank.

a great attraction for the inn,” says Julie Dimakis, general manager. “We, and our guests, love that we showcase local artists and have their work available for view and for sale.”

The Lake Sunapee Bank’s Main Street branch, diagonally opposite from the Tracy Library, has a richly appointed interior, which is a great backdrop for artwork. Curated by

Branch Manager Kaitlyn Covell, this Micro Gallery shows a wide variety of regional artwork, including a Sunapee High School student show. Lake Sunapee Bank won the New Hampshire Arts and Business Award from New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts in 2015 — a recognition of the important partnership between the business community and the arts.

There are different dimensions to the opening of a new show. Not only are light refreshments served, but there may be artists on hand working their magic. Local musical talent is also included at many of the First Friday Gallery Nights. “We welcome the public to visit the Micro Galleries at any time to see a large selection of outstanding artwork, and to join us for the Opening Night Receptions on the first Friday of February, May, August and November,” says Connolly. **KM**

Laura Halckenhauser is an art-loving, New London-based freelance writer.

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