

THE ARTS

By Susan Nye

Photos by Rick and Susie Lowe Stockwell

DISCOVERING THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS' MICROGALLERIES

Connecting the arts, local business, and the community

SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS AND BLESSED WITH BEAUTIFUL LAKES, the Lake Sunapee region is well-known for its wonderful outdoor activities. However, in addition to outdoors enthusiasts, the magnificent landscape and friendly community have attracted many talented artists, musicians, dancers, and writers. The Center for the Arts (CFA) is dedicated to connecting artists to the community and the community to the arts.



Clockwise from left: Jean Cronan Connolly, chair of the board of directors of the Center for the Arts, with Rick Stockwell, coordinator of the visual arts guild in charge of the MicroGalleries. Rick Stockwell and Liz D'Amico look at their show at the Tatewell Gallery. Viewers admire art at the the Blue Loon Bakery and the Bar Harbor Bank and MicroGalleries.





Opposite, from top: Artist Tatiana Yanovskaya-Sink at the New London Inn MicroGallery. Laura Ballam, assistant manager of the Bar Harbor Bank. Scott Reed, co-owner of the New London Inn. The MicroGallery at the New London Inn.

This page, below: Artist Roger Wells with Laurie Shive and Mike Morgan, owners of the Blue Loon Bakery.

Bottom: Laurie Shive in front of Blue Loon Bakery.

Jean Cronin Connolly of New London is the chairwoman of the CFA board of directors. “CFA has been around over 10 years now, always with the goal to enrich lives and build community through the arts,” says Jean. Originally from the Boston area, the painter, photographer, and longtime supporter of community arts was delighted to join CFA and support its many programs.

Highlighting Local and Emerging Artists

The all-volunteer organization is powered by an extensive list of hardworking artists and friends of the arts. Photographer Rick Stockwell of Sutton is the coordinator of the visual arts guild. He organizes the MicroGalleries and the summer Naturally New England show. Through the quarterly MicroGalleries and other events, the CFA is able to showcase the work of many talented visual artists. Throughout the year, the community is treated to an eclectic mix of paintings, prints, mixed media, and photography.

The CFA is a membership organization, so only CFA members can submit work to show. Acceptance is not



UPCOMING EXHIBITS

Some fall shows as well as the First Friday MicroGallery opening receptions have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Student shows at Whipple Hall are on hold. Check the website at centerfortheartsnh.org/microgalleries before planning to attend.

Early fall MicroGalleries - August through October

- Tatiana Yanovskaya-Sink at the New London Inn
- Peter Anderson at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust on Main Street
- Gwen Fuller at Blue Loon Bakery
- Abby Machamer and Paula Minaert at Tatewell Gallery

Late fall/early winter MicroGalleries - November through January

- Member Show at the New London Inn
- Roger Wells and the Art Café Group at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust on Main Street
- Abby Machamer and Paula Minaert continues at Tatewell Gallery
- Vicki Koron and John Koron at Blue Loon Bakery

ZOOM with the Artists November 6 at 6pm





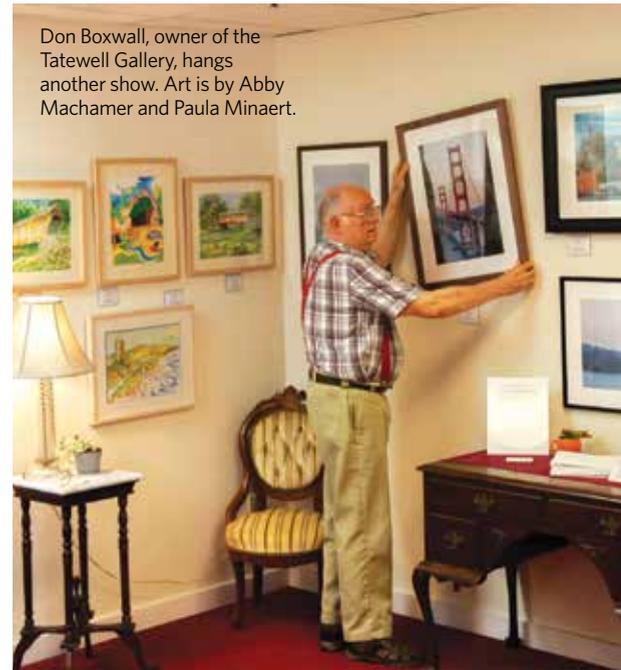
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automatic, and all work goes through a selection process. “We focus on local artists and encourage emerging artists to submit their work,” says Rick. Although they don’t accept beginners’ work, Rick says, “If an artist is almost there but still needing some polish, we’ll work with them to help them get ready for a future show.”

Four generous business owners plus Whipple Hall provide space for the quarterly MicroGalleries. New London Inn, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, Blue Loon Bakery, and Tatewell Gallery welcome a different artist every quarter. With the exception of Whipple Hall, most shows display the work of a single artist. Whipple Hall will often host group shows and focuses on student artwork. The quarterly exhibits run from February through April, May through July, August through October, and November through January.

Community Support

Blue Loon Bakery became a MicroGallery soon after they opened. “We were looking for art to fill the walls and a friend suggested the Center for the Arts,” say Laurie Schive, co-owner of the bakery with her husband Mike Morgan. She continues, “The arts are important, and we love the concept of bringing art and business together for the community. From the start, we have wanted Blue Loon to be a gathering place

for townspeople, students, and tourists; hosting a MicroGallery helps us do that.”

The MicroGalleries’ opening receptions are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some great artwork, meet the artists, and visit with friends. First Friday events are a wonderful addition to the region’s cultural and social calendar. On the first Friday of every month, a variety of interesting events are held throughout the year. From concerts to readings, exhibits, and performances, First Fridays provide the community with direct access to artists and their art.

Tatiana Yanovskaya-Sink from New London has been working with CFA for many years. Her work will be at the New London Inn MicroGallery through October. Her paintings capture the natural colors, light, and ambience of her surroundings. Whether she is painting landscape, the human figure, animals, or still life, her goal is to make beautiful art from real life.

Roger Wells of Sutton is looking forward to a group show with the Art Café in November at the bank’s MicroGallery. Thanks to his outreach, 13 artists have been gathering monthly for five years for critique sessions. With the various artists working in vastly different styles and media, the show will be unified under the theme of Walt Whitman’s poem “Leaves of Grass.”

Opening receptions are held on the First Fridays from 5:30 to 7:30pm and at Blue Loon on First Sundays 11am to 1pm. In lieu of live opening receptions this fall, the CFA will host ZOOM with the Artists Friday at 6pm, which will include a tour of the exhibits and an opportunity to speak with the artists directly. The link will be posted on the CFA website. The public is also invited to view the artwork live during normal business hours. ⓘ

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