Gallery in the Gunks opens in Pine Bush

Ray Zwart opened The Gallery in the Gunks last weekend at 90 Main Street in Pine Bush. Being involved in the arts for almost 40 years and with the thought of opening a gallery for about the past year, Ray was finally ready to take the leap.

"It has been on my mind for about a year. An artist friend that exhibits in galleries in Sullivan County was looking for an outlet in Orange County and thought Pine Bush would be a good location," said Zwart.

Various artists including Owen Tate, Felipe, Michelle Filer, Charlie Lang, Curt Meier, Jill Ziccardi, Jeannie Scala, Lynn Isaacson of New Prospect Pottery, and Shannon Whitman of Sunrise Lodge Fiber Studio displayed their work ranging from acrylic painting to various mixed media, jewelry, recycled material sculptures, pottery and woven pieces.

During the opening, Ray Zwart greeted visitors and explained technique and other questions in the absence of the artist. For example, a few paintings were identified as having been created using Encaustic Media. Ray defined the process as a layering of paint with tissue paper or other material then wax. Artists may decide to etch into the various layers for additional dimension and detail. This method was used in several of Michelle Filer's displayed pieces.



Original Sin by Jill Ziccardi.

While visitors enjoyed the exhibits, artist Charlie Lang also sang and provided his own keyboard accompaniment.

For the future, The Gallery in the Gunks may also include performance arts as well as studio workshops.

Zwart explained, "I will be looking to expand the gallery to include studio workshops with artists and a performing artist venue for music poetry, comedy and drama. My vision is to include all areas of creativity including vitners, distillers, and microbreweries for tastings. However, I am very interested in discovering artists that do recycled art. I think that this is a venue still undiscovered and intriguing to me how a creative mind works, using materials at hand and discarded. I want local residents to look at the gallery as a place to purchase local from local area artists for themselves and for gifts, not just a gallery... but to share the creative expression of our community."

Gallery in the Gunks can be found on Facebook and is open Friday – Sunday from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- Sharon MacGregor



Lamp of recycled materials by Curt Meier.