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FEATURED

Rumriver Art Center showcases new gallery

Paige Kieffer Dec 17, 2018



The Rumriver Art Center opened up a new gallery Dec. 8 in Anoka that features artists from the local area and across the Tw
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Ten artists from across the Twin Cities showcased their work Dec. 8 at the grand opening of the new gallery at the Rumriver Art Center located at 2665 Fourth Ave., Anoka.

“We opened this gallery because it was really needed,” said Rumriver Art Center Director Larry Weinberg. “People have been asking for a place to showcase their work and we just never had the room to do it.”

Weinberg and his wife Susan Yee opened the Rumriver Art Center in 2009 in the old Anoka milk factory building. The center became a 501c(3) non-profit in 2012.

“The Rumriver Arts Center’s goal is to create a space where the community can come together to ignite their creativity through art,” Weinberg said.

The center offers affordable classes, programs and camps for people of all ages from pre-kindergarten to seniors in painting, watercolor, printing, sculpture mixed media, cartooning and more. Thirteen volunteer artists teach the classes.

The center has a main art studio, four smaller studios that are rented by local artists, a pottery studio and a cafe.

Although the one thing the Rumriver Art Center was missing was a gallery.

Last October, the center’s landlord came to Weinberg mentioning that some space in the building had become available. Weinberg quickly decided to rent the space with the goal of opening a gallery. With help from the landlord and local donors, the center was able to rent the space.

Later that month, Lowe’s Home Improvement in Coon Rapids also donated paint, flooring and woodwork so the center could refurbish the gallery. With the help of volunteers, the studio opened on Dec. 8.

“The goal of the gallery is to have a place where the community can showcase their work,” Weinberg said. “We not only want to give our own artists a space where they can showcase their work, but also other artists in the community as well.”

The studio celebrated its grand opening on Dec. 8 with an exhibit featuring work from teachers and artists from the center in addition to a handful of local artists.

The artists exhibiting their work included Deb Kirkeeide, Angie Renee, Kevin Eldstrom, Pat Langston, Jes and Mike Johnson, Delayne Hostetler, MaryLeah Marshall, Paul Boecher and Weinberg. All of the artists’ work being displayed is also for sale.

Boecher, a Rumriver Art Center teacher and Anoka artist, showed his acrylic and watercolor paintings at the opening. All of his art pieces are of local landscapes done plein-air meaning they’re created outdoors. He also teaches a course in plein-air at the center,

“This center has a lot of energy and it is a really neat place to work,” he said. “The people that are starting to come here are doing amazing work. It’s so important to keep the arts going and I’m so excited to see what’s going on here.”

Boecher will have another exhibit at the gallery starting Saturday, Jan. 12, followed by an exhibit in April from the group Artists del Norte.

To learn more about the Rumriver Art Center, visit rumriverart.com or call 763-323-8830.

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