Art Circle Gallery gaining momentum



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Alex Daini of Walhalla's Art Circle Gallery places local artists' work on the walls. Thursday's "Art, Cider and Cookies" holiday event will feature artists from Oconee, Pickens and other local counties.

Event on Thursday to feature local talent

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
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WALHALLA — After only a few months in business, Alex Daini said she feels the Art Circle Gallery has the support of its community.

"It's been great," Daini said. "I couldn't ask for better support from the Walhalla community."

Art Circle Gallery, 124 E. Main St., currently houses various forms of art from 22 local artists, two of which came to the gallery since it opened.

"I thought I might have a problem keeping art on the walls, but that has yet to be the case," Daini said. "Even from the beginning, our walls were full."

On Thursday, Daini said the gallery will feature its monthly "Art, Cider and Cookies" holiday event at 5:30 p.m., where guests can admire and purchase art from a variety of local and international artists.

"We've had a lot of people come into the gallery and ask if it's a museum," Daini chuckled. "When I tell them it's like a museum, but you can take the art home, they get really excited. We have incredible work in here."

Paul Dohr, 84, is a local artist whose work will be featured on Thursday.

He is known for his famed watercolor nature scenes, which he said inspires him the most.

"I love to paint experiences as I see them," he said. "Nature is beautiful, especially around here. I have a lot to work with."

Dohr has spent his entire life involved in the arts.

"I went to art school and lived in a lot of places all over the U.S. as an art director or marketing manager," he said. "Art is more than just a part of me. It's my life."

Dohr teaches a watercolor class at Art Circle Gallery on the first Saturday of each month, and he said he is attending the event.

Daini said in addition to Thursday's event, she is excited about the Jan. 10 "Walhalla Now and Then" exhibit.

"We're going to have photographs of old Walhalla surrounding the gallery, as well as work specifically by Walhalla artists," she said. "The Walhalla Chamber and the Oconee Heritage Center have been able to give me CDs of photos that we're going to blow up in size."

She said Walhalla is a place of special memories for a lot of people, and she is thrilled to be able to give back to her community in this way.

"It will be a walk down Memory Lane for sure," she said.

A portion of Thursday's proceeds will benefit the Tamassee DAR School. Artists featured include Debe Abbott, Dianne Bartlett, Judy Blandchard, Brian Bowlby, Michael L. Brown, Bess Ciupak, Garry Collier, Alex Daini, Rita Daini, Rudy Daini, Meredith Davis, Paul Dohr, Donna Juras, Lou Koppel, Ullisses Killick, Julie Lamp, Sarah Mannino, Dorothy Meredith, Susan Moon, Katie Potelara, Jack Rookard, Faye Smith and Kathy Young.

Gallery hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call (864) 638-7420 or visit www.artcirclegallery.com for information.

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ART CLASSES

Tuesdays: Watercolor for Dummies (Bess Ciupak), noon to 3 p.m. Drawing (Suzan Moon), 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Metal Clay (Alex Daini), 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Explore Art for Kids (Alex Daini), 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Oil Painting (Suzan Moon), 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

First Saturday of the month: Watercolors (Paul Dohr), 10 a.m. to noon

Jan 12: Colored pencil (Donna Juras), 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 9: Cartoon drawing (Donna Juras), 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

March 9: Psyanky Egg decorations (Donna Juras), 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.