

## about us

[River Art Gallery & Gifts](#) is nestled in the painted pink historic News building at 83 Webster Street in the town of North Tonawanda. Discover our collection of original artworks and fine art reproductions by established and emerging artists from Western New York and the Southern Ontario region.

<a href="#">Paintings</a>	<a href="#">Drawings</a>
<a href="#">Fused Glass</a>	<a href="#">Sculpture</a>
<a href="#">Ceramics</a>	<a href="#">Wood Gifts</a>
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## REMEMBRANCE

Let's take a moment to remember these outstanding members of our arts community.

**Donna M. Hale** (12.2.1948 – 4.21.2023)  
After a long illness, our friend and artist Donna Hale rests in peace. She was an active member of River Art Gallery, the Niagara Frontier Plein Air Painters, Williamsville Art Society, Buffalo Niagara Art Association, and the Pastel Society of WNY. Her artwork will in grace our community forever.

**Jane B. Wolfe** (2.2.1955 – 4.21.2023)  
It is with great sorrow that we share the passing of our loving friend and gallery co-owner, Jane Wolfe. Her love and support for River Art Gallery extended for over a decade. Later this year, in October we are hosting a Celebration of Life to honor this extraordinary woman.

## exciting news

### Evolving as a Member's Gallery



#### Fortifying our Dedication to Arts & Community

As of July 2023, we've converted into a uniquely member's only art gallery and gift shop. We have taken the next step in fulfilling the gallery's lifelong mission of connecting creativity within our North Tonawanda and WNY community. We believe that fine tuning our operations within a brick-and-mortar retail space, while expanding our online and ecommerce presence, simply provides an ideal set of opportunities for both our artist and the fine art community.

#### Showcasing our member artist

By shifting away from monthly exhibitions, River Art Gallery and Gifts can focus on fostering and growing each member artists career possibilities within our creative marketplace. We work with our artist in marketing their art brand online and within the regional arts community. Our design team helps them to prepare professional materials exclusively for their show or event. Whether they need graphics for an exhibit or art show, we'll help create artists brand marketing tools, including video content, digital graphics and promotional materials.

Fine art blends together with River's parent company, Pencil in the River Studio, Inc. We work in collaboration to ensure the highest level of quality in fine art giclée reproductions. River Art Gallery & Gifts offers a selection of artist support services designed to build a professional pathway into the arts. Since 2009 River Art Gallery & Gifts has helped to build and support a flourishing artistic community in Western New York. Be part of our creative community. We offer Resident Artist and General Artist annual memberships. All new Artist membership applications are approved by Melinda Schneider, River Gallery Manager at [galler@riverartgalleryandgifts.com](mailto:galler@riverartgalleryandgifts.com).

## Spotlight on the Artist

### Jody Ziehm

#### *Moving Watercolors*

Watercolor artist Jody Ziehm envisions her surroundings through the colors of her palette. Expressive strokes and vivid colors are the hallmark of her work. Jody encourages watercolorists to move their paint with brushes, or a subtle spray of water and sometimes she paints with a stick. "It gives me funny, unpredictable edges and marks" Jody added, "Move fast. Don't think too much. Then you'll have a spontaneous painting." She is an award-winning artist who actively participates in many local and national shows. Jody offers immersive painting workshops on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution and European art excursions. Additionally, she teaches watercolor classes at the Carnegie Art Center.



[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)



## Spotlight on the Artist

### Beverly DiPalma

#### *Painting Uncorked*

Beverly spent her professional career as an art director and graphic designer with over 30-years in advertising. A Western New York native, now freelances from her home studio providing a flexible schedule to "just paint". She finds inspiration from personal experiences and her many travels. Her subjects are usually what she has a connection to whether at the moment of the experience or a personal one.



She is the co-creator of Painting Uncorked, private watercolor painting parties with step-by-step instruction, the perfect outlet to share my artistic passions. Dinner & Paint nights are scheduled monthly at Webster's Bistro in North Tonawanda, NY. A member of the Buffalo Society of Artists and the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society.



[SEE PAINT NIGHT VIDEO](#)

## Spotlight on the Artist

### Barbara Rickard

#### *The People's Paintress*

#### **Big, Bold and Colorful. Fox Run Gallery Exhibit and Artist Talk 2023**

A self-proclaimed Paintress, Barbara Rickard is lost in a love affair with color.

"I was asked to review my life as a creative. Uncorking all those little bubbles of magic, turned out to be a lot of pops and some fizzles, but blended together to make for a lifetime of effervescence. So, this task, of being asked to do a George Baily on yourself, a deep dive into "how did I ever wind up here?"; is one that I would encourage everyone to do. This Artist Talk is my appreciation, for it IS, after all, A Wonderful Life."

In the early years, "I was a jobber. Hopping from client to client, task to task, solving problems, creating problems, charging forward and never really giving much thought as to what I left in my wake. There is nothing so enticing, inviting and invigorating as standing in front of a white canvas with the thought, I can make anything I want." Her work celebrates Buffalo WNY's great heritage with regional landscapes and the city's iconic buffalo. Barbara's art takes on many shapes like pillows, blankets, coasters and more.



[THE PEOPLE'S PAINTRESS VIDEO](#)



# gift shop

As we continue to expand our member's gallery, the gift shop is bursting with fresh artistic creations. Come stroll through the gift shop for an escape into each artist's imagination. We're confident you'll find that special piece of jewelry within our diverse selection. Our collection of art spans nature scenes, figurative, to abstracts. Plus, we always celebrate the City of Buffalo. Discover many buffalo themed works of art, which make great gifts for family and friends near and far. Join us and celebrate the creativity of artists within our neighborhood.

Browse our books corner with local authors for adults and children. Here are some of the exceptional treasures from our local artisans. Discover a wide selection of handmade originals in a range of media.



# artists opportunities

River Art Gallery & Gifts offers artists and artisans opportunities throughout their artistic journey. Together, we work to establish the processes and business support systems vital to creative professionals maintaining their careers in the world of art.

Lear more about:

- [River Memberships](#)
- [Fine Art Reproductions](#)



## insights Fine Art Giclée Reproductions

“Pencil in the River has been a treasure and a resource to me as an artist getting started. I have received helpful guidance, promotional and artistic support, and I have been able to purchase giclees of my work to help me to grow my business.

I was awarded a grant in 2022 to assist in building my artistic business and Pencil in the River was the first place that I thought of going. With that money, I bought my first volume of giclees.

It’s location makes it convenient for me to get to and everyone I work with there is marvelous. I know that if I have any questions or need feedback I can get that as well. I consider myself fortunate to have found my way to such a great place with people that genuinely care about me — not just as an artist but as a person. I can’t recommend them enough.” — Zona Lucia

To learn about our services, check our website: [PencilInTheRiver.com](http://PencilInTheRiver.com)

### Zona Lucia

Zona’s work is vibrant and colorful, described as being “alive” with a quality of “innocence”. Her goal is to have viewers get in touch with the childlike quality within themselves. They become their own narrator for each piece within their own imaginations. [SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)



Zona Lucia



I Love it when you Play with My Hair



Choosing What Mood to Wear



She Always Slept with One Eye Open

## historical corner

### Erie Canal 200th Anniversary 2025

The Erie Canal runs just North of Albany in Waterford, NY, which is the convergence of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers, and it spans 363 miles to meet the Niagara River at Tonawanda and North Tonawanda, NY. At the time of its construction, between 1817 and 1825, the Erie Canal was the second-longest in the world.

2025 will mark the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal’s opening and celebrations will be held across the state. Buffalo, NY will have a prominent position as the host of the 2025 World Canals Conference, which attracts canal and inland waterway enthusiasts, professionals, and scholars from around the globe.

**[STOP BY AND SEE US AT CANAL FEST OF THE TONAWANDAS, JULY 16-23, 2023](#)**

