

## 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.

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|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Paintings</b>      | <b>Drawings</b>   |
| <b>Fused Glass</b>    | <b>Sculpture</b>  |
| <b>Ceramics</b>       | <b>Wood Gifts</b> |
| <b>Fiber Art</b>      | <b>Leather</b>    |
| <b>Wood Furniture</b> | <b>Scarves</b>    |
| <b>Mixed Media</b>    | <b>Note Cards</b> |
| <b>Jewelry</b>        | <b>Posters</b>    |
| <b>Reproductions</b>  |                   |

## let's get together

This Autumn & Holiday Season, we're extending River Art Gallery's hours on Friday evenings to 5pm-8pm, with our Artisan's After-Hours. Enjoy a night of networking and mingling with our community of Member Artists in collaboration with Webster's Bistro. Artisan's After-Hours will run through December.

It's a beautiful time of year, come for a stroll on Webster Street this Autumn.



**FRIDAY EVENING  
EXTENDED HOURS • 5pm -8pm**  
Unique One-Of-A-Kind gifts and original art!

## UPCOMING NORTH TONAWANDA SEASONAL EVENTS

We wish everyone a Thanksgiving full of friends and family with a double serving of laughter and love. Keep in mind that we will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd for the holiday. But we're open on Friday November 24th all day and evening with an Artisan's After Hours.



Plus celebrate "It's a Wonderful Night" with a tree lighting and outdoor market on Main Street in Tonawanda.

Then come on by on November 25th for Small Business Saturday. We appreciate our communities support and commitment to keeping NT a growing neighborhood. Discover artistic ideas to wrap up this year's gift lists. Bring the entire family to North Tonawanda's 23nd Winter Walk on Saturday, December 2nd from 10am to 5pm. It's time to Kick off the holidays!

**Black Friday - November 24, 2023**  
**Small Business Saturday - November 25, 2023**  
**North Tonawanda's Winter Walk - December 2, 2023**

## UPCOMING POP-UP EXHIBITS

As this season grows full of celebrations, we are taking a moment for these special Pop-Ups.

**October 26 –  
December 2, 2023**

**PHIL SMOLINSKI**

We're honoring artist Phil Smolinski with reflections from his lifetime in art, hosted by his wife Pam Smolinski.

**November 15 –  
December 28, 2023**

**ELLEN KOSSOFF**

Come see our new member Ellen Kossoff to River's Member Artists community.

## Spotlight on the Artist

### Doug Mess

#### *Making Emotional Connections*

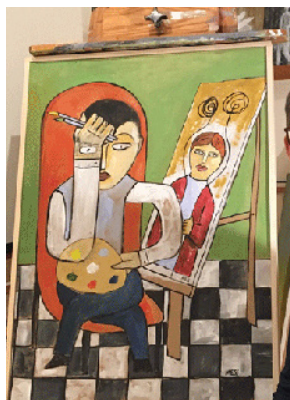
Meet River Gallery artist Doug Mess. A North Tonawanda native known for his Expressionist approach to his paintings. As a young 5th grader, his work was selected for an exhibit at AKG (Albright Knox Art Gallery). Doug believes he was hooked ever since. His career as an Art Director and Designer enabled Mess to master his use of line, becoming a signature element of his artwork.

Doug's goal is for you to have an emotional connection to his work. And to make you smile. He's inspired by the world around and within him, making hundreds of sketches to find the right image to put to canvas. He paints mostly in acrylics and oils with his style living somewhere between surrealism and expressionism.

He thinks his best work is produced late in the evening, while listening to good music with a good glass of wine or two. It's all good. Learn more about Doug Mess in his video or Portfolio

[DOUG MESS PROFILE](#)

[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)



## Spotlight on the Artist

### Jeanne Gugino

#### *Art with a Purpose*

Ever since third grade, Jeanne Gugino wanted to be an artist. "Art is a wondrous force with a purpose. It reminds us of who we are and where we came from". A Buffalo State College, Fine Arts Education graduate, Jeanne Gugino has traveled the world, studying art with masters, while exhibiting her artwork throughout Europe and Japan. Making her home in WNY, she enjoys her numerous art influences and strives to integrate feelings of hope into her collages. She explores many textures, materials and develops layered papers that intertwine together.

Jeanne believes that "One day's failure may be another day's success".

Learn more about Jeanne Gugino in her video or Portfolio

[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)



## Spotlight on the Artist

### Ken Schosek

#### *Working with his Hands*

Ken discovered his passion for building things early in his life growing up in NT. With a special attention to detail, Ken enjoys building, creating, and designing. He has worked with his hands throughout his career in building, operations and software technology. Woodworking came naturally. He's a self-taught woodworker for 19 years, exploring the craft and fine tuning his skills.



Ken designs and builds custom decorative items, lighting, furniture, and cabinets, for homes and offices. He takes his time doing it, so others can appreciate his work. Ken's wife is an accomplished quilter and many of her patterns influence his wood work. His pieces blend colors, grains with similar density. "They work out well when they fit together, knowing they will stay together overtime" remarked Schosek. Ken hopes that through woodworking he can leave something with you that can be cherished for years to come. Learn more about Ken Schosek in his video or Portfolio Frontier Watercolor Society. [KEN SCHOSEK PROFILE](#)



[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)

Visit: [riverartgalleryandgifts.com](http://riverartgalleryandgifts.com)

## Spotlight on the Artist

### Connie Garver

#### *Reveals her Signature Style*

Connie Garver enjoys working with colored pencils, offering her over 150 choices of different hues to gently shade and layer together. She enriched her skills with over six years of art classes with regional artists Joan Horn and Patrick Sean Daley. Connie is hooked on the flexibility of colored pencils, blending realism with whimsy. "I lightly outline each element which draws contrast within each piece", explains Connie "it's become my signature style". She brings her artwork to life until each piece reflects her vision. Learn more about Connie Garver in her video or Portfolio



[CONNIE GARVER PROFILE](#)

[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)

## Spotlight on the Artist

### Vicki Oliver

#### *Fun Painting Technique*

Let us introduce you to River Art Gallery artist Vicki Oliver as she demonstrates alcohol inks and markers that are highly saturated with color. "It's fun and creates great results" remarked Vicki. Made from dye and alcohol, they are highly fluid and brightly colored and dry quickly as the alcohol evaporates. Vicki illustrates how she can achieve layers of colors on the non-porous Yupo board. Vicki Oliver has a versatile background as a Fine Arts major from the University of Buffalo. She has been working on art for a long time with a career at AM&A's Department store in designing window displays.



[SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST VIDEO](#)

## Resident Artist William McCullagh shares his artistic talents with heroes young and old.

You'll always be able to see artist Bill McCullagh's artwork on the walls of River Art Gallery and Gifts. But now, you can find his creativity in his new adventure of writing and illustrating books for children. It starts as an idea from one's imagination, put on paper and shared with others



[SEE ARTICLE](#)

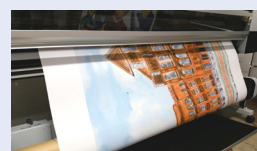
## artists opportunities

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.

Learn more about:

-- [River Memberships](#)

-- [Fine Art Reproductions](#)



## Pencil In The River Studio

### Artist Michael Weber

#### Meet the man behinds these Monsters

The Mummy and Frankenstein classics were blockbuster hits that helped make monster movies hot commodities again, masterfully blending romance with horror, adventure, and humor. Artist Michael Weber started working with Lisa Langer at Pencil in the River Studio when he had to find a way to master these one-of-a-kinds paintings in order to create fine art giclee reproductions to sell at the "Chiller Theater" Toy, Model and Film Expo this October 27-29, 2023 in Parsippany, NJ. Michael's work was noticed by Sara Karloff, daughter of classic actor Boris Karloff and she invited him to attend the annual film Expo, known as "Chiller Theater". Mike has continued to make magic with his monsters, creating his recent version of the Mummy. When glass and paints are combined, they create amazing works of art. The original 16"x20" creation is painted on the glass with black latex paint (from the back) there is no canvas. Due to the high glare of the glass, these fine art masters must be photographed in a controlled, minimal lighting environment. After fine tuning the proof, these 14"x11" images are printed on archival paper, using



archival inks and placed inside an archival plastic sleeve. Stop by River Art Gallery and Gifts to view these original paintings. Pick up one or both of these Thrilling Classics and add them to your collection. [michaelweberarts.com](http://michaelweberarts.com)  
[FRANKENSTEIN: The Boris Karloff Years - Cinema Scholars](#)



*The Uncanny Monster*



*The Unhinged Romantic*

*Fine Art Giclee Reproductions available at the River Art Gallery & Gift Shop*

## historical corner

### YOUR PARTNER IN SUCCESS

Lumber City is an economic development corporation focused on revitalizing the North Tonawanda community through various programs, projects and activities. We work to strengthen and expand existing businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and endeavor to bring new business into the City of North Tonawanda in an effort to advance development, create jobs, and increase the property tax base while at the same time preserving city neighborhoods.

For more than 10 years, Lumber City Development Corporation has worked hard to fulfill its mission of economically revitalizing the City of North

Tonawanda. Downtown North Tonawanda is a vibrant, year-round community boasting historic architecture, abundant waterfront access, and the quality-of-life amenities to enhance downtown livability. Past public and private investment have begun to transform Downtown, and North Tonawanda is ready to leverage these investments into new growth. An overall vision for revitalization has been built through numerous planning initiatives, allowing the city to become a prime candidate to implement the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

### LUMBER CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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