

Foster's Online  
Dover, New Hampshire

FOSTER'S SUNDAY CITIZEN  
**Arts & Leisure**

Citizen Online  
Laconia, New Hampshire



E-Mail This Article

Printer-Friendly Version

Don't delay. Subscribe to Foster's Daily Democrat today! - Click

## New gallery excites local artists, shoppers

By JOHN NOLAN  
Rochester Times Writer  
[jnolan@fosters.com](mailto:jnolan@fosters.com)

ROCHESTER — "I want Jenny to stay here. She's enriched the town, and helped to create an art community," said Rochester potter Roger Galuska.

He was referring to Jennifer Stimac, whose Jenny-Wren Gallery on North Main Street is proving a valuable resource not only for local artists selling their creative works and also for discriminating shoppers seeking an alternative to the mass-produced articles that fill big box stores.

Stimac, who recently opened her own gallery/store after years of managing a League of New Hampshire Craftsmen outlet in Exeter, has the work of more than 50 artists and craftsmen on display and for sale.

Recently, a few of these craftspeople gathered in the gallery to talk about their products and to thank Stimac for this chance to showcase their creativity.

"I think it is wonderful," said Galuska. "I don't normally place so many pieces on consignment,



**John Nolan/RochesterTimes photo** A few of the many craftspeople whose work is for sale in Rochester's Jenny-Wren Gallery are, from left, artist Beth Liff of Dover, fiber artist Wen Redmond of Strafford, gallery owner Jennifer Stimac, stained glass artist/jeweler Cheryl Kumiski (kneeling), glass jewelers Rob Dworkin and Karen Demchek, scratchboard artist Robert Goudreau, and potter Roger Galuska, all of Rochester, and fine furniture maker Stuart Blanchard of Strafford.

### Member Services

[Sign in](#)

[Log out](#)

[Create Membership](#)

[Update Membership](#)

[Forgot Password](#)

[Help Desk](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Problem Report](#)

### Best Read Guides

[All Regions](#)

[Fall Foliage Guide](#)

[Lakes Region](#)

[Seacoast](#)

[White Mountains](#)

### Arts & Leisure

[The healing power of music: Blues Traveler headlines the Baystock Music Festival](#)

[A punk rock circus The Vans Warped Tour stops in New England](#)

[Auction house built on pop culture sells tidbits of history](#)

['Mayflower' is more than the story of a ship](#)

['Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Palace Theater](#)

[Durham Resident Mary Ann Esposito to appear at 'Fisherman's Feast' in Boston](#)

[Gretchen Wilson coming to Meadowbrook](#)

['Hope Diamond' brings only good luck to readers](#)

['Little Miss Sunshine' a gem of a ride](#)

[Alaska: Big, beautiful and you don't need a cruise to see it](#)

[Highway to hell: 'Sunshine' spins comic nightmare on wheels](#)

[Whodunit fans can bone up on the latest mysteries](#)

but I want to support Rochester's downtown."

Stuart Blanchard, a woodworker from Strafford, who has been crafting fine furniture for over 20 years, was in agreement.

"This is a very nice opportunity," he said, indicating some of his furniture, including a selection of tables and a polished chimney cupboard, displayed throughout the spacious gallery.

Below the main gallery, Cheryl Kumiski of Rochester, a stained glass artist-in-resident, has a studio space, where, on the first Wednesday of every month, the public is invited to watch her create amazing dichroic jewelry.

Upcoming dates are April 5, May 3 and June 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This type of jewelry consists of thin layers of metal oxide applied, with great skill, to glass to produce "gleaming color combinations that nature's palette had previously reserved for highlighting peacock plumes, the iridescent glow of opals, and occasionally the flash of an insect's wing," as one practitioner describes it. Kumiski, who has been working with glass for 30 years, has her work displayed in galleries across the country, from Oregon to the East Coast.

Rob Dworkin and Karen Demchek are two other Rochester artists whose work is represented in the gallery. They met while studying at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Mass., and now often create in collaboration. Among their more unusual items are sculptural glass spheres emitting dazzling colors from imbedded coatings — items which Dworkin modestly describes as art marbles.

Wen Redmond from nearby Strafford, another local artist with merchandise in the gallery, is a member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, and her work, in all its various mediums, is well represented in the Jenny-Wren Gallery. She is a talented fiber artist, and creates wallhangings, jewelry, silk clothing and more, with her one-of-a-kind art objects displayed in the prestigious Fuller Crafts Museum of Massachusetts, among other locations. How does she accomplish so much?

"I have no elves. I do all the schlepping myself," she joked.

Robert Goudreau of Rochester, a master of the delicate art of scratchboarding, was also on hand last week to sing the praises of the new gallery. Someone familiar to those who appreciate art in the city, Goudreau has previously won the top prize in the professional division of the art exhibit at Rochester Fair.

Like many of the dozens of craftspeople represented in the gallery, Goudreau's work is accessible to budget — for example, while his original scratchboard of two oxen pulling a hay cart is available for several hundred dollars, attractive postcard size lithographs of the same scene can be purchased at \$3 each.

Of all the artists gathered at the gallery last week, perhaps she with the most unusual resume was Beth Liff of Dover. The painter of an avant garde yet tenderly enfolded mother and child, and with degrees in both sculpture and painting, in the previous decade Liff was a decorated paratrooper sergeant serving US Army 82nd Airborne. As such she was a commo chief of all advanced recons

for Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Sweep during the first Iraq war. After her military service she went on to study art in Santa Fe, NM, and had a number of exhibitions in the city.

"I express with my art, through line, texture and form, the inner feelings of love and connection," said Liff.

Her work is in private collections from Maine to Texas.

But what of the customers who have discovered this cultural gem in the heart of downtown Rochester.

Said real estate broker Barbara Marsh, "The first day I walked in I was just in awe. Oh, my gosh! I got the neatest gifts for my whole family. It is just nice to have her (Stimac) here."

Priscilla Crivelli of Farmington, whom the astute reader will recall won the Rochester Times Pothole Trophy, a couple of years ago, said of the Jenny-Wren Gallery, "I found it absolutely refreshing. I though I was in Portsmouth. Good quality merchandise is nicely displayed. I can't begin to tell what an asset it is to the community."

Local businessman Harvey Bernier said he had visited the gallery three or four times already, with his family.

"The type of stuff she's got in there is unique. You usually have to go to Portsmouth, or even Boston, to find it, but her prices are much more reasonable. And in some of these shops, they don't know the artists, but she is able to give a run-down on everybody. When you give a gift, you can look smart," said Bernier.

Former Rochester Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Mark Hourihane was equally complimentary.

"She (Stimac) is an exciting young lady, who lives here in Rochester. Her gallery complements artstream across the street with good, high quality merchandise," he said.