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New gallery offers art from \$10 to \$2,000



Jennifer Collins opened the Gallery on Friday at Radford's East Main Street. The open house continues from noon to 7 p.m. Monday,

ALAN KIM, The Roanoke Times
Leslye Bloom - pdf for BRAA

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RADFORD -- As the daughter of a sculptor, Jennifer Collins grew up attending art shows, wandering through art museums and surrounded by art: hers, her dad's and other artists'.

This summer, the oil painter opened The Gallery in downtown Radford and again she is surrounded by art.

Located next door to the Vintage Cellar, the art gallery features landscape paintings by Collins; wood-carved pieces by her father, Charlie Brouwer and work by various other artists.

The art on display ranges from \$10 packs of notecards to a \$2,000 wooden arbor. All of it is sold on consignment.

Opening an art gallery is something Collins has imagined doing since she was an 18-year-old art student in Michigan.

But it wasn't until she found vacant

retail space that she decided to move her base of art operations out of her home.

The Gallery is the only private gallery in Radford, Collins said, and the addition is a much-needed one.

"Speaking from an artist's point of view, we often work in an isolated space, but we're creating something that's not complete until somebody sees it," Collins said. "A gallery can be an asset to a community because it bridges the gap between the artist working in isolation and the community that wants to see the work."

Collins, whose pieces are already shown in galleries in Michigan and South Carolina, said she opened The Gallery to give exposure to the New River Valley's active community of artists. Many of those with work on display are from the area and several are art professors at Radford University.

"I'm interested first of all in serious artists who are creating genuine art

that comes from within them," said Collins, who also teaches drawing at Radford.

Her inspiration comes from places she's visited on vacation or knows intimately.

Behind a partition in the gallery, Collins maintains a studio where she depicts those landscapes on stretches of wood and canvas.

When finished, some will end up in the gallery's main space amidst artwork of various mediums. There, raku-fired vases sit under lights in the store's front windows; wood-block figures stand on podiums in the entryway and oil and acrylic paintings hang along The Gallery's brick walls.

The Gallery, at 1019 E. Main St. in Radford, is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday. It will host an open studio from noon until 8 p.m. today to give the public an opportunity to meet artists and see their working environment, as well as recent and current work.