

Artists

FROM PAGE 17

they're little milestones, like objectives to a goal."

Tom Bowker said environment is important when planning gallery events.

"I think this provides a very easy access point for a viewer to come. They're feeling welcomed in a very acceptable way," he said. "It invites a little more dialogue with the artist, which is (something) we're very much committed to."

Creating conversation with the customer is also important to gallery owner Ray Bier, who owns Bier Art Gallery in Charlevoix with his wife, Tami.

To generate interaction between the artists appearing at Bier's and the customers, the gallery holds demonstration days.

"I've always had this theory that people like to see artists work in their media," Bier said. "People really connect with the artists if they see what their doing. They think it's

kind of magical in a way to see a piece of pottery start off as a lump of clay and all the sudden, it becomes a piece of pottery. It has form and it has beauty, and so they watch this with excitement and they have a lot of fun here."

Bier's fall demonstration day will be Oct. 9 during the Apple Festival in Charlevoix.

Tami Bier will be creating her sculptural animals including the hand-pinked frogs and nativity characters that are now famous in the gallery. Ray Bier is hoping to make clay pots on the wheel.

Even though it will be held in an off-season month, Bier said the fall demonstration has, in the past, drawn hundreds of

people.

"It depends on the day and the weather," he said. "We've had days where there's been cars up and down the road parked. It's real popular. I think it's a lot of fun."

The fall event is part of Bier's goal to remain a predictable year-round establishment.

The gallery is open daily through January, when the hours are cut to Saturdays only until spring.

Staying open year-round may not always be profitable financially, but it does have advantages, Bier said.

"The good part is that you're active within the community," he said. "You're still here for the people."



Record-Eagle/Lara Neel

Tami Bier sculpts a clay turtle in a tent outside of Bier Art Gallery during a demonstration day.

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Art events

August

Aug. 27-28: "The Moving Wall," a 252' long reproduction of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Kalkaska; 258-6808.

Aug. 28: Artists reception at River Street Gallery, Paul Colucci and Bob Purvis, noon-4 p.m., Manistee, 398-4001.

Aug. 28-29: Alden Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Alden Depot Park, Alden, 377-6305.

September

Sept. 3: Opening reception for Artist of the Month Glenn Wolff, 5-7 p.m., Crystal Lake Art Center, Frankfort, 352-4157.

Sept. 19-25: American Painting from the Detroit Institute of Art; 35 selected works, Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, 995-1055.

Sept. 26: Artist reception for "There were Woodlands, Ada Michigan," exhibit of work by Karen L. Cunningham, 3-5 p.m., North Peak Brewing Co. Backroom Gallery, Traverse City, 228-5706.

October

Oct. 2: Fall Open House at By the Bight Gallery and Studio, "Immerse Yourself in Color by

the Bight," 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Northport, 386-7019.

Oct. 2: Opening reception for Jane and Clif McChesney, noon-4 p.m., River Street Gallery, Manistee, 398-4001.

Oct. 4-Nov. 4: Anishnaabe Festival art exhibition, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Oct. 7, Crooked Tree Arts Council, 347-4337.

Oct. 7-Nov. 5: Kelli Snively art exhibition, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Oct. 7, Crooked Tree Arts Council, 347-4337.

Oct. 8-9: Fiber Festival 2004, original fiber art for exhibition and sale, opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, exhibition 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Old Art School Building, Leland, 256-2131.

Oct. 8-31: Roland Roycraft Retrospective, show of lifetime works of art from the American Academy of Art in Chicago to present day; reception Oct. 8 6-8 p.m., Artcenter, Traverse City, 941-9488.

Oct. 9: Demonstration Day, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Bier Art Gallery, six miles south of Charlevoix, 547-2288.

Oct. 15: Cape Dorset Print Sale and Reception, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture by Inuit historian Dr. Marion Jackson, travel talk by Terry Tarnow on Arctic trip, Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, 995-1586.

Oct. 16: Autumn Palette Tour, art tour through Leelanau County artists' private studios, noon-5

p.m., \$20 tickets available at Old Art Building and on-location day of tour, 256-2131.

Oct. 22-24: Dennon Museum Center Holiday Art Fair, fine arts and crafts from 50 area artists, Christmas and Hanukkah gifts, Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City, 995-1596.

November

Nov. 6: Thistle and Thread Craft Show, Civic Center, Traverse City, contact K. Tilley at 946-9176.

Nov. 6: Reception and demonstration, noon-4 p.m., handmade books by Marcia Engelitjes, Kelly Yoakam, Pam Thompson, Molly West, Mary Windram, River Street Gallery, Manistee, 398-4001.

Nov. 13: Bay Area Artisans Craft Show, Civic Center, Traverse City, 947-0215.

Nov. 13-Dec. 17: Juried photography and juried fine art exhibition, 20/20 theme, opening reception 3 p.m. Nov. 13, Crooked Tree Arts Council, 347-4337.

Nov. 19-20: Artcenter's 22nd Annual Fine Craft Christmas Show, 5-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, \$1 donation, Park Place Hotel Dome, Traverse City, 941-9488.

Nov. 26-27: Northport Merchants Open House, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 386-7019.