

OPEN WEEKDAYS
10:00—5:00
WEDNESDAYS &
SATURDAYS
9:00-1:00
AND BY APPOINTMENT

Black Hills Frame Shop

“A Reputation of Beautiful Design & Outstanding Framing”

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2009

Open House & Reception



As we kick off the Summer season, please join us for an Open House on May 7th, 8th and 9th.

Two featured artists, Dennis Linn and Chris Budden (see their biographical sketches) will be doing Gallery Talks on Thursday and Friday followed by a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8th (of course you are invited and of course there will be goodies).

The reception is from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in both the West River Gallery and the Cellar Door Gallery in the lower level.

Live music will be provided by guitarist Michael McDonald and another great musician.

For this event, please RSVP via email me at ronbunnell@rap.midco.net.

ARTISTS' GALLERY TALK

This is an educational opportunity for individuals or groups who would like to really learn more about what goes into art. Specifically, it's an insight to all phases of sculpture by bronze sculptor, Chris Budden, and a huge range of artwork by artist, Dennis Linn. These two artists are phenomenally talented with Mr. Linn recently winning top national honors in three separate categories.

They both will be our featured guests at the recep-

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH
Chris Budden - 10:30AM
Dennis Linn - 1:30PM

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH
Dennis Linn - 10:30AM
Chris Budden - 1:30PM

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
Dennis Linn - 9:30AM
Chris Budden - 11:00AM

tant are their Gallery Talks given during the day on Thursday and Friday.

We are encouraging groups of artists or students to attend these educational talks. All persons are welcome but please RSVP via e-mail with numbers of those who will attend.

Hope to see many of you at the Open House!

Ron



Black Hills Frame Shop

tion given on Friday, May 8th but maybe more impor-

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A Focus on Black Hills Artists

The West River Gallery has more than 100 nicely framed pieces and features Black Hill/South Dakota artists like Harrison, Yellowhawk, Groth, DuBois and so many others.

Tim is in the process of listing many of these on the Gallery website. Go to

backdoorframeshop.com and click on the "Gallery" for a nice sampling.

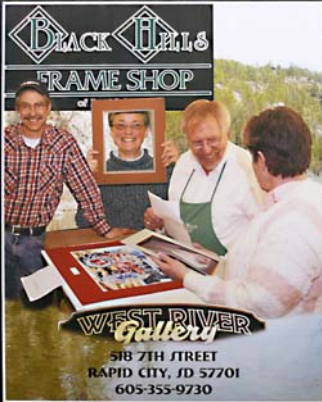


The Cellar Door Fine Arts Gallery

The Cellar Door is new and located downstairs. It is all original art. When I was a federal intern in Washington, DC during my college days in the early '70s, there was an intriguing place in Georgetown called the Cellar

Door. The Cellar Door can now be found at 518 7th Street too, although it's full of fine art. The Ramsey Lewis Trio plays at our new Cellar Door too, but rather than live performances, they are on CDs. Everyone who views the art

and the Gallery are amazed at the old rock walls that serve as the foundation of one of the oldest structures in downtown Rapid City. You will see how unique it is and like it too.



Have you been framed?

*“Any
Volunteers
to help
on these Summer
Nights?”*

Ron helping
another customer



SummerFest 2009

It was magic in 2008 when our 7th Street closed down completely every Thursday afternoon and evening. Every Thursday night all summer long, the band played at the end of the street with the beer garden. At the other end were the food vendors and a place for kids to play. Art Alley was alive with activity. The new lighting in the Alley installed just prior to the first Summer Fest

evening turned night into day.

Man, it's so cool as we show all comers through the main gallery and to the special Cellar Door Gallery in our lower level where only ORIGINAL ART of local artists is displayed and offered for sale. I don't suppose there is a volunteer who would like to lend a hand on these nights?

This year, thanks to many fine sponsors and

volunteers, Summer Fest will run for for 13 Thursdays—all summer long! One of the nights will once again be for veterans' art and possibly one other for some other specialty. As was the case last year, we will likely empty our main gallery and turn it over to folks for these special events.

A very special thanks to Mary, Beth and Ann on this one.

The Art of Framing & Matting

That's what we call the class offered through Community Education twice a year. Once again it was nearly sold out. Over the past 7 years, the Frame Shop has instructed right at 100 adults in

the art of framing and matting interested in learning how to do it the right way. We stress quality to last a lifetime and beyond. Many persons working for our competitors actually have taken my course to strengthen their skills

and knowledge.

It's a whole lot of fun. We love to have photos taken of this event because there are smiles everywhere. The reviews are always excellent and the classes are usually filled to capacity.

Like a Personal Arts Gallery



Within the past six months, we completed more than forty pieces for the Alex Johnson Hotel and

they are just great. They are all historical in nature from the first days of the AJ and now they are all right there in the lobby when you are in downtown Rapid City.

My wife, Donna, and I spent the night there on New Year's Eve and helped to celebrate the New Year with the new owners--and

their first "no vacancy" in years. You might want to consider doing that yourself next year, especially if they have the burlesque show again. I ended up on stage with them during the show—but, heh, that's another story. Please enjoy the framed historical works all around the lobby.

Donating Your Art to Local Charities

At various times, people will approach me to either buy their artwork or display it for sale at a commission. This is artwork that they have enjoyed for most of their lives. They may be moving into smaller housing or new housing where it just doesn't fit any longer. Unfortunately, we neither buy or sell this pre-owned art. However, several years ago, I started a program that has met with some success. It goes like this:

The person could sell the art outright by themselves but often there is no good way to do this. I ask them if they want to donate it to a non-profit organization. If that is what they want, they are asked to write a brief background description of the work that is being donated.

The frame shop then takes it in and refurbishes it. If it has glass, it is disassembled and cleaned. If the frame corners are loose, they are re-glued. If the frame is damaged, it is repaired. Then the entire piece is re-fitted with new dust covers, hanging cables etc. and made ready for many decades more of enjoyment.

As we are solicited by various charitable groups for donations, these pieces along with a description of what the piece is all about and what has been done with it, is transferred for sale at these fundraisers. Examples of this in the past year are Women Against Violence and Black Hills Community Theatre. When taken in by the Frame Shop, the only condition is

that there is a real value in the piece being donated and we reserve the right to accept or reject.

Currently we have none of these pieces in pipeline so please keep it in mind or let a friend know. By the way, we always request that the soliciting agency give us a written statement with the selling price so that this can be given back to the person making the donation.

Throughout the year, the Frame Shop and Gallery contribute regularly to a wide variety of organizations. The revitalizing program is just a way to make a difference with a few more people and hopefully a little bigger impact with a piece that is clean, made beautiful again and ready to re-hang in a new home.

"Several years ago I started a program that has met with some success."



“Colors of the mats and colors of the frames are key to the composition.”

Mother’s Day Traditions

For the past decade, at least since his marriage and the birth of their first child, Norman has taken two to four photos of the children and brought them in every year. We always do a printed in-house nameplate saying “Happy Mothers’ Day” with that year and cut it into the mats with the photos. The annual photos (now in duplicates)

are framed and matted and given not only to Mom, but also to Grandmother on Mothers’ Day each and every year.

What a great tradition! I’ve actually watched this young family grow up. By the way, we also complete similar projects when the family goes to Disney World or the Grand Canyon. They also usually bring back special

pins that depict where they have been and these go into separate openings in the mat. It’s always fun and challenging to work through the new mat colors and frame style while discussing the trip or events of the past year.

The oldest child is now ten years old and can be found growing up in this family’s Wall of Fame.

Cross Stitch

Dorothy does cross stitch and they are youthful, unusual and funny. Over the years, we have framed dozens of her work. It’s always in a way that is perfectly preserved and constructed to last for

decades. Colors of the mats and colors of the frames are key to the composition. There is never, ever a design fee of any kind.

She was picking up two of her latest renderings on April 27th and I

asked if it was OK to include a snippet about her. She just laughed and said she’d watch for it.

Focus on the Ages

For more than a decade, people like Darlene have brought in probably more than a hundred projects for their own use and display in their Bed and Breakfast. Many require re-cutting mitered corners of the

frames, re-gluing, touch-up of frames, maybe a new mat, maybe not, general clean-up, re-fitting to frames, new dust covers on back, new cables—and man do they look nice! After years of experience, our

approach to personal art is one of options with an eye on quality and longevity at a fair price. This is why Darlene and her family are regulars.

A Special Collector

For years now, Lori has enjoyed bringing in special pictures and art that she searches out on the internet (like Peterson prints), antique pictures from eBay (like Parrish prints) or art that she has picked up at antique stores. The unusual

part is that she shops for great old picture frames as well, so when she comes in the frames are in one hand and the subject matter in the other.

At this point we work on a finished design to make it fit with the period and

with her décor. It's great fun and the finished piece often looks like it's from another era. It's done right and doesn't cost an arm and a leg. It's another way that the Black Hills Frame Shop makes a big difference with your wants.

A Word to the Wise

How many times have you seen an intriguing old photo in an antique store and wondered out loud, "I wonder who that was?"

I challenge everyone to use the dust cover (craft paper on the back of your framed art) for a higher pur-

pose. Simply take the picture off the wall, sit down in a chair and with a pen and in your own words, write down where you got the picture from, who is in it, anything else significant and then sign and date it and hang it back on the

wall. This should take about a minute to do. Don't get fancy!

There. You're DONE and you have made a great difference to the next person to take it off the wall—it might be next week or years from now.

"I challenge everyone to use the dust cover for a higher purpose."

What a Pleasant Surprise

This past Christmas we sailed along at a bit slower pace as I recovered from a vacation and wondered what the sagging economy would bring. We made it

through the Christmas season fine but had a big surprise the first month of the new year.

January was the busiest January in our twelve year

history of picture framing. I am not complaining, but I did get a bit behind and appreciate everyone's patience! Thank you!

All Hands on Deck—Please

When I used to have a real job with a real income and things were going south, you might hear somebody ask, "Do you know the difference between the Titanic and (insert name of organization here)?"

The answer, of course, is "The Titanic had (what?)."

If you know the answer, whisper it in my ear the next time you are in.

My observation is that on the Titanic, at least there were people around to ask, give directions, to hear you scream or whatever. In small business, there is no one in the wheelhouse to ask

how we are doing except you, the customers. The Open House and Reception is our way of shining the brass a bit, checking our course and saying hi to our friends, not to mention everything is 12% off now through May 9th to get everyone on deck.

EVERY-THING 12% OFF

Now through May 9th!

Black Hills Frame Shop

518 7th Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

www.backdoorframeshop.com

605.355.9830



Register to WIN!

From now through Saturday, May 9th, be sure to register to win one of five great prizes to be given away on May 9th. You need not be present to win.

This will conclude the Open House and get us all ready for a beautiful long Summer Fest on 7th Street. Ready, Set, Go!

Black Hills Frame Shop was originally founded as Back Door Frame Shop in 1998 and remains part of Back Door Frame Shops, Inc. On the internet at backdoorframeshop.com.