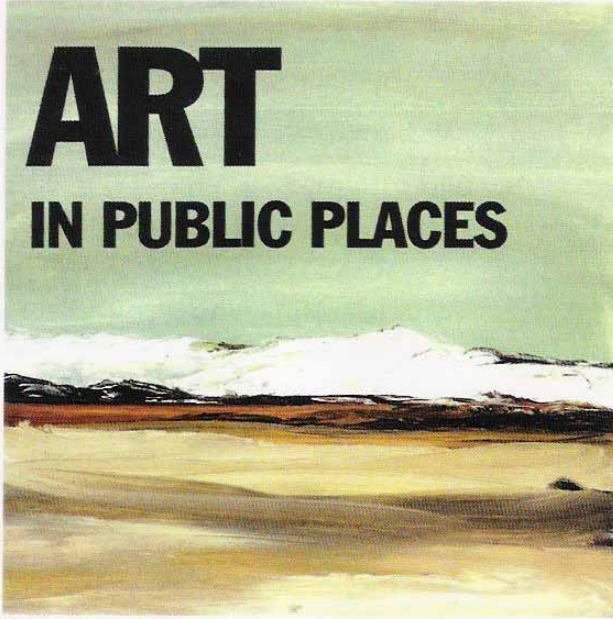


# CapeArtsReview

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## ART IN PUBLIC PLACES



LANDSCAPE BY RICK ELEURY

BY DEBORAH J. CARR

*The Cape is an arts destination for those who want to gallery hop, but it is also for those who enjoy the serendipity of finding art in curious places.*

**T**he Cape's flourishing art scene takes place on the whole in galleries and museums, but it can also be found in the public spaces that are surrounded by the commerce of daily life. For those artists who have experienced the difficulty of finding exhibition space, the non-gallery alternative is an exciting and innovative option.

Exhibition space which can be found in such places as municipal offices, restaurants, coffeehouses, banks, hospitals, doctors' offices, libraries, guesthouses, real estate and insurance offices, offer a broad range in style, sophistication and ambience. In some spaces the art can be displayed perfectly; in others the art may be challenged by height, light or placement. Some exhibitions include not-for-sale pieces from museums or private collections; others present "definitely for sale" selections from galleries or non-gallery affiliated artists.

It is possible to observe the work of an iconic Cape artist over an office machine or in a library hallway; it is also possible to "discover" the work of an emerging artist in a hospital emergency room. Availability, familiarity, and nonchalance do not suggest that art is taken for granted, rather, it is part of the Cape's fiber. Cape communities celebrate the importance of art as well as its availability. It's just fine that extraordinary art is available in everyday places. When it comes to art, the extraordinary is absorbed into the ordinary activities of daily life.

Non-gallery spaces inspire interesting connections—an exhibition in a

Many business owners offer exhibition space to support the arts or a particular artist, and many artists return the favor by donating their art to community organizations, art auctions and fund-raisers. The exchange reflects a long tradition of barter, gratitude, innovation and devotion to art. When selecting non-traditional exhibition space, Provincetown artist Rick Fleury says the challenge is "to find the right chemistry."

## BANKS

### *The Financial Connection*

MANY BANKS HOST regular art exhibitions, some featuring the work of local artists, others featuring selections from museum or private collections. Ginny Parker, Vice President and Senior Financial Advisor of the Cape Cod Bank & Trust (CCB&T) Financial Center in Provincetown has worked in several CCB&T branches and was committed to nurturing the relationship between the art and the financial communities in each setting.

"I've tried to incorporate the arts in banking," says Parker, who uses the visual arts to promote interest in endowments for the arts. In her current Provincetown location, Parker works with the Provincetown Art Association and Museum to organize exhibitions three times a year. "The Art Association picks the pieces from its collection and brings them in," says Parker. "People love it." She notes that the Orleans branch of CCB&T has featured the work of the Nauset Painters, and the Chatham branch has featured work from the Creative Arts Center.

## RESTAURANTS

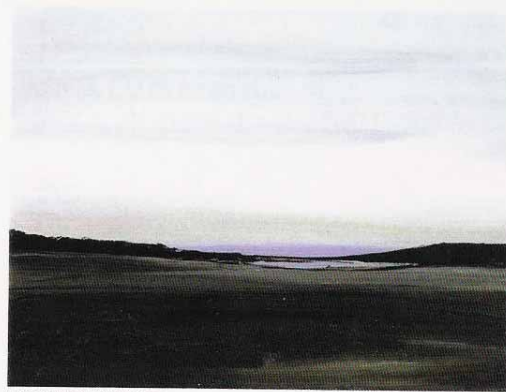
### *Culinary and Esthetic Delights*

ART IN CAPE RESTAURANTS runs the gamut from the obscure to the extraordinary. Some restaurants are casual about their acquisitions, which represent the time-honored tradition of exchanging art for food, and others are as noted for their art collections as their elegant culinary delights.

"I love to find out about the artists whose work I admire," says Glen Martin, owner of Provincetown's famed Martin House restaurant. Art lovers are attracted by the Martin House's winning combination of superb food, charming environment and outstanding art, where Martin displays selected pieces from his extensive personal collection, as well as pieces from local galleries. Many of the paintings on display are courtesy of the Julie Heller Gallery and the Packard Gallery. Provincetown artists such as Nancy Whorf, Lois Griffel, Chet Jones, Dan Rupe and Ann Packard are featured prominently. "We have a long-standing relationship with the Packard Gallery," says Martin, who named a room in the restaurant The Packard Room. "Many of our clients come in looking for Packard pieces," he said.

Martin, who began collecting the work of young artists over 20 years ago when he was first starting out in the restaurant business, chooses each piece. His passion for collecting art has continued over the years, and the restaurant allows him to share his collection with the public. Restaurant reviewers invariably comment on the quality of the Martin House's art and many gallery hoppers include the restaurant on their tours. Martin doesn't mind having people pop in to see the art, since he views collecting as his "second calling." "Art is my second niche," he said.

Cafe Heaven, at 199 Commercial Street, in Provincetown, features the work of John Grillo, whose work is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The



LANDSCAPE BY RICK FLEURY

Whitney Museum, and the Guggenheim. "The patrons love him," says manager Patrick Drummey, who admits to being a big fan of Grillo's himself. "People expect to see his work here now." Cafe Heaven began exhibiting art 12 years ago, but when owner Alan Cullinane bought the restaurant nine years ago he began to show Grillo's work exclusively. Known for his bright palette, luscious colors and bold brushstrokes, Grillo's work attracts devoted following. Last year, the Cafe featured Grillo's famous circus figure the year before the tango series, and this year's exhibition features a series of abstract paintings with Grillo's signature vibrancy, energy and excitement. Grillo is represented by the Cove Gallery in Wellfleet, which handles the sale of all work shown in Cafe Heaven.

Ted Mahoney, owner of Mahoney's Atlantic Bar and Grill in Orleans, wanted to feature local artists in his restaurant. Staff member Shannon Doherty, a former art school marketing director, works with the Left Bank Gallery to select art work that reflects the restaurant's ambience, which has been tagged "Boston Chic with Cape Cod Charm."

"The gallery selects the art, but they know our preferences and style," says Doherty. Inevitably, the featured art captures the vernacular of the Cape and the sea, without being a "seafood cliché." Jennifer Morgan's Cape landscapes "are very simple and carry well across the room," says Susan Blood, manager of the Orleans branch of the Left Bank Gallery. Audrey Parent, owner of the Left Bank Gallery, says Matthew Smith's copper plate etchings of sea life are a perfect match for the restaurant. "His themes are the Atlantic, water, and the coast, so his work has been a really great fit."

"We pick artists who have enough work to be in both the gallery and the restaurant," says Blood. "The restaurant is a showcase for the artists' presence in the gallery."

"The exposure is wonderful for the artists," adds Parent, who believes the collaboration between galleries and restaurants benefits the artists as well as the public.

## WALLS NEED ART

WHETHER IT WAS serendipity or destiny, Bob O'Malley, principal of Provincetown's Beachfront Realty, and artist Rick Fleury have formalized a mutually beneficial enterprise that capitalizes on the synergy between art



and real estate.

"What began as an opportunity to help a local artist has turned into a relationship that benefits all of us," says O'Malley, who sees a natural tie between real estate and fine art. "People who buy property end up with walls to fill," says Fleury, who realized the connection last summer when the real estate office featured a few pieces of his work. It wasn't something he had considered, but it seems so obvious now—new home owners are great purchasers of art. The arrangement was so successful, Beachfront is now licensed as an art gallery, and is joining the Provincetown art scene as the "Gallery at Beachfront Realty."

Fleury, who moved to Provincetown in 1998 to pursue his interest in art, has been painting coastal landscapes and still lifes of the Outer Cape and Martha's Vineyard for more than ten years. His work has appeared in several Provincetown shows and galleries, as well as juried shows in Cambridge, Boston and Florida. His work has been especially successful with new homebuyers who are interested in work that captures the Provincetown landscape. While many artists are not interested in working the gallery side of the business, Fleury enjoys the opportunity to meet and chat with clients. The arrangement with Beachfront is flexible, allowing him to use the expansive exhibition space, rotate his work through different seasons, and discuss clients' interests and preferences. Fleury's work will be featured at the Gallery at Beachfront Realty as an ongoing installation through the summer and fall, when the gallery will be open to the public during regular business hours, weekend evenings and by appointment.

## **PROVINCETOWN TOWN HALL:**

### *Cherishing the Community's Heritage*

WHILE THE MOST INTERESTING work hanging in some town halls may be an aerial map of lot boundaries, in Provincetown Town Hall you can view more than thirty paintings from the extensive art collection belonging to the Town of Provincetown. Rather than being locked away in a vault, the art works are displayed in the corridors, offices and meeting rooms as testimony to Provincetown's remarkable heritage.

Most of the work was produced in the first half of the 20th century and many of the pieces depict Provincetown scenes. The selected works include Charles Hawthorne's "The Crew of the Philomena Manta" and the "Fish Cleaners," and Ross Moffett's large murals, "Gathering Beach Plums" and "Spreading Nets" which were painted in 1934 under the federal Public Works of Art Project of the Depression era.

Non-gallery venues, many of which are in public spaces, expand exhibition options for artists and viewing opportunities for art lovers and casual observers. On the Cape, when it comes to art, the extraordinary is absorbed into the ordinary activities of daily life. ▲

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