

COVER STORY

Glencoe art studio hosts all-female group show

CHRISTINE ADAMS
Freelance Reporter

AIR Studio and Gallery, the downtown Glencoe art space, is hosting its annual group show through Nov. 30. While artwork is on display and for sale, these compositions are not the only focus at this year's community-minded exhibition.

AIR (artists-in-residence) Studio and Gallery is comprised of 14 local artists — all women — who share the space both to create their works and to show them.

Each artist has a different style, seen through the variety of art on display. Oil, pastel, acrylic and watercolor paintings are on exhibition, as well as prints, fiber artistry, photography and a 3-D assemblage.

According to AIR Studio & Gallery founder Sally Haglund, visitors "like that they see a variety of art when they come."

"It's a fun, eclectic show," Haglund added.

The show will also be, in Haglund's words, "local and affordable."

Every artist hails from Chicago or a northern suburb, and unlike commercial galleries, which significantly mark up the cost of show pieces, AIR Studio and Gallery will not be profiting from the show, raising only what it needs to cover operating costs.

As a result, art-lovers may find pieces at a fraction of the price of another gallery's show.

Haglund, who formed AIR Studio and Gallery in 2013 and is one of the featured artists, commended both the quality of the artwork and the individuals who contributed to it. The artists all come from different backgrounds with varying degrees of experience, but one commonality she said everyone shares is "there is not a lot of attitude or ego."

Artist Peggy Schutze Shearn, of Highland Park, agreed, acknowledging the artists had adopted "a nurturing approach to working together," creating a supportive, community-minded studio.

"It is an interesting experience, watching people evolve artistically," Shearn said. "It's really enriching. Artists tend to be by themselves, but here they can connect with others."

While the AIR studio did not set out to be women-only, the artists have found a certain comfort with this dynamic — and they appreciate the ability to show their work at the gallery, as commercial galleries have historically favored showing men's work.

While the show celebrates and displays the compositions of the resident artists, it also marks a new chapter for the studio as a member of the community. In

LOCAL FEATURED AIR STUDIO AND GALLERY ARTISTS

Julie Aaronson (Glencoe)

Beth Peterson (Glencoe)

the coming months, AIR Studio and Gallery will become a non-profit organization that will open its space to the community and have more intentional interaction with the Village of Glencoe. To highlight this new status, the gallery invited the public to its opening reception on Sept. 29, offering live music and refreshments to attendees.

"It's pretty impressive," Carl Magnussen, of Evanston, said at the opening. "I'm into contemporary art, and it's nice to see new ideas instead of regular paintings."

Eventually, the gallery is aiming to be a meeting-place for community gatherings like writers' groups, and as the space has



Julie Aaronson, of Glencoe, created this painting for AIR Studio and Gallery's annual group showing running through Nov. 30 in downtown Glencoe. PHOTO SUBMITTED

been used to teach art lessons before, the resident-artists may resume these classes as well.

The show runs until Nov. 30 and the gallery, located at 348 Tudor Court in downtown Glencoe, will be staffed from 1-5 p.m. every Friday-Sunday.