

New GH Art Gallery Hosting Solo Shows

The Art Space at Backbone debuted Aug. 6 with local artist Donna Carver.

By CHARLEE GLOCK-
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FOR GIG HARBOR LIFE

Dr. Christian Cohen, owner of Backbone Restored chiropractic clinic, grew up with art all around him as his mother was a painter and a potter.

So it was natural for him to decide to use his office walls as an art gallery of sorts to show the work of local painters. He calls it The Art Space Gallery at Backbone.

Starting Aug. 6, Cohen will feature a different artist each month in a solo show. The first artist will be oil painter Donna Carver.

According to Carver, a solo show gives an artist the opportunity to exhibit a variety of work, not just one or two pieces as happens in a group show.

Solo shows also give the public an in-depth view of the artist's perspective and creative point-of-view.

Each new solo show will kick-off with a wine-and-cheese reception during the monthly First Saturday Art Walks.

"We're thinking that the Art Space will be sort of the caboose of the art walk, since we're located at the top of Pioneer Way, away from the other galleries," Cohen said. "We're not competing with the other galleries, but as far as I know, we're the only gallery that will be doing solo shows."

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And, he added, having art shows at his office will introduce art to a whole new audience because his patients will see the paintings each time they visit. And, of course, more people will learn about his clinic in the process, he acknowledged with a smile.

Cohen anticipates that each artist will bring 25-30 pieces to display, and each will hang their own show. "That's important to artists, because they know which paintings should be hung close to each other and which ones should be displayed on different walls," he said.

Carver has lined-up artists from Peninsula Art League for the next 12 months of shows at The Art Space. "These artists have all been screened by PAL to show their work, and they represent diverse mediums and subject matter" Carver said. "We'll have artists who work in oils, pastel and watercolor and also printmakers, Sumi-e artists and even photographers."

Cohen plans to serve fancy gourmet cheeses and crackers, and wines from The Keeping Room at the monthly receptions.

"Bruce Gair is hand-selecting the wines. We'll probably have four or five different wines for people to try."

Cohen said he also hopes to have live music at some of the events. His wife plays trombone with the Gig Harbor Civic Orchestra, "so we're trying to have a string quartet or other musicians play at the receptions."

While some galleries take as much as 50 percent commission on paintings they sell, Cohen will take 15 percent. "The commission will go directly to a newly formed local charity called Cornelius International Corps. It provides IT support for humanitarian agencies worldwide."

Cohen is on the board of directors for Cornelius, which will take a two-pronged approach to its work.

"The first part is a laptop assurance program, to make sure that each organization gets a new laptop computer every two years," he said.

The other function of Cornelius is rebuilding computers remotely over the Internet. "It's pretty amazing technology," Cohen said. "One of our other board members has the capability of remotely rebuilding a computer on the other side of the world if there's a software failure or similar problem. This could be a vitally important service to someone who's working in a remote area of Afghanistan, for example."

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