

ART FIRST GALLERY

Fredericksburg's oldest Artist Co-op Gallery

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Place Like
FXBG***
an All-Member show

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The Art First Gallery has prepared a collection of winter themed art as well as beloved, iconic scenes of Fredericksburg in this month's exhibit. You can find paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolor, as well as glass ornaments, jewelry, intricate pysanky eggs, photography, pulp art, and mixed media and more!

Art First Gallery

824 Caroline St.
Fredericksburg VA 22401
www.artfirstgallery.com
creative@artfirstgallery.com
540.371.7107



Welcome, Rick Klingbeil

The Art First Gallery is thrilled to welcome its newest member, **Rick Klingbeil**! Known for his paintings and pencil drawings, his art features beautiful landscapes, vintage cars and amazing skies. His work is on display now! Stop by the gallery to celebrate him and see his work in person. You won't be disappointed!

Give the Gift of Art!

There's still plenty of time to give the gift of Art this holiday season!

The Art First Gallery is thrilled to announce the addition of gift cards to the gallery! Stop in to pick yours up today!



A Genuine Thank You From Art First Gallery!

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a unique year. We have witnessed a whole culture shift the likes we have never seen in this country before. We have lost loved ones, lost jobs, been quarantined, had to adjust to learn and work virtually and learned how to lead and follow differently. This year not only brought us Covid, it also brought us polarizing politics. No matter where you land on the political spectrum you are sure to find someone who vehemently disagrees with you.

How does an Art Gallery find its place in these strange times? An artist owned co-op of twenty local artists, Art First has been celebrating fine art in Fredericksburg since 1992. After the Governor's shutdown order mandated art galleries would be closed temporarily, Art First Gallery had a chance to reevaluate the business. Like many businesses downtown they had to take a close look at how they would overcome the obstacles that were put before them. During this uncertain time the artists not only supported each other and the gallery but also supported the community by shopping, donating, and dining at the other downtown Fredericksburg businesses. The gallery collected food for local food banks at a crucial time when supplies were dangerously low. Members also sewed face masks and donated to the Fredericksburg Sheriff's department in the beginning of the shutdowns when they were not easily available.

Artists had the opportunity to focus on their art, their family, and their friends (in person or virtually). They had the task of not only to be inspired to make art but also to inspire others through the difficult situations many people faced. The artists dug deep and hung their shows even though First Fridays were cancelled. They opened their doors when they were allowed and welcomed those who felt comfortable getting out and about, and they even expanded their membership to new and talented artists.

Though this year lends itself to plenty of negative things that can be focused on, Art First has decided to remain positive and optimistic about the future. There are so many things to be thankful for even in a year like 2020. A year like this allows us to slow down and put our lives and businesses in perspective. It allows us to fine tune what works and cut out what doesn't. It affirms that we need each other more than ever and that we are more alike than different. It forces us to prioritize what is important and reveals to us what we can live without.

Art is a universal business that has always brought people together. It is sure to bring a smile and warm someone's heart. Art is subjective, it is an expression of the imagination, and is appreciated primarily for its emotional power. Art has the power to change moods, elicit ideas and inspire minds. The gallery's December's show titled "There's Snow Place Like Fredericksburg" features winter themed and iconic Fredericksburg art. The gallery wanted to showcase the town that has supported them through the years and this ordeal called 2020.

Many businesses endured state shutdowns, some were not so lucky and closed their doors for good, and yet some still hang in the balance. With downtown tourism taking a bit of the hit early in the year the locals who have supported the gallery will never know how much Art First appreciates them. The gallery, along with its artists, wants to thank everyone who supports local artists and the downtown businesses. As we look forward to the holiday season, may we be grateful and thankful for all the blessings we have been given.