

Dear Friends of Heartland Gallery,

First, I'd like to thank all those that attended our Pre-Valentine's Day celebration on Saturday, Feb. 13, and a special thank you goes to Leila Ramagopal and Michael Shapiro for providing the wonderful harp and guitar music that filled the gallery that afternoon. If you were here, then you already know that I had just recently returned from a trip to Ireland and England. I brought back with me many fine new paintings by artists Honor Hales of Portlaoise, John Nolan of Dublin, and Hilary Nunan of Cork.

I had the good fortune of finally meeting John and his wife, Miriam, at their home in Drumcondra. A delightful pot of tea and hours of conversation later, John graciously showed me around his backyard studio where many of his recent paintings are displayed. I purchased four more of his paintings and will be getting several others as well as new art cards in time for the Boneyard Arts Festival in April.

I brought back new jewelry items by Alan Ardiffe and Declan Killen, both of Dublin, and Maggie Lord, of Skaramanda Jewellery in Scotland; small ceramic wall hangings by Julian Smith of Kinsale, Co. Cork; small art puzzles by Mary Gosling of Co. Cork, and many other items, so please stop in and see all of the new treasures. I also placed first-time orders for new ceramics (Alec Good of Co. Clare, Thomas Diem of Co. Meath, Michelle Butler of Co. Tyrone, and porcelain by Cyril Cullen of Co. Tipperary) and new jewelry (Reaction Jewellery by Deborah Darling and Colin Greer of Co. Antrim). These items will be shipped to arrive by mid-April, along with new pottery by Ray Power of Castle Arch Pottery in Kilkenny and jewelry by Martina Hamilton of The Cat and The Moon in Sligo.

A one-day visit to Edinburgh took me to the studio and shop of Bill (& Helen) Baber Knitwear, where I was given a quick tour of the studio, and then picked out about a dozen or so items from the shop. These have already been shipped and are expected to arrive any day now. Most of Helen's designs are created in a combination of silk and linen. Every piece is a one-off, so quite a unique investment as it will last forever if taken care of properly.

I currently have many of my own photos displayed near the back of the gallery, along with a few by local nature/wildlife photographer Cheri Manrique.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 27 (8pm) - Claudia Schmidt Concert, the first in a series of Folk Music Concerts arranged by Ed Hawkes of the CU Folk & Roots Festival and co-sponsored by Heartland Gallery. Please note that this concert is NOT at Heartland Gallery, but at the Independent Media Center (IMC) in the historic Post Office building located at 202 S. Broadway in downtown Urbana, just one block from Heartland Gallery. Tickets are available through me,

however, and are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, payable by cash or check. Claudia will also be giving a vocal workshop on Saturday afternoon from 2-4. For more info, please see the attached press release.

Saturday, March 13 (8pm) - Bill Staines Concert, the second in the Folk Music Concert Series. Bill is a renowned American singer/songwriter and folk musician from New England. This concert will also be held at the IMC at 202 S. Broadway. More info to follow.

Thursday, March 18 (7pm) - Irish Storytelling Concert with Dan Keding and Kathe Brinkmann, local masters of the spoken word and members of the CU Storytellers Guild. Join us in celebrating St. Patrick's Day just a day late. Refreshments will be available. \$5 cover. Several of Dan's CDs are also available to purchase on a regular basis at Heartland Gallery.

Tuesday, April 6 (7pm) - "I Remember When..." - A solo dramatic presentation by Karen Vaccaro, actor, director and acting coach, who taught at both Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Illinois, and is the recipient of three Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work in Chicago. This special program includes excerpts of personal stories collected from local residents, and is funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The event is free, but please call 337-4767 to reserve a space, so we know how many chairs to set up. Refreshments will be available.

Sunday, April 11 (4pm) - Claire Roche Harp Concert - Claire and John will again be entertaining us with songs and stories, all the way from Dublin, Ireland, as part of their third US tour. Join us for an intimate afternoon as Claire transports us to a land of mystery with her beautiful harp music and haunting soprano voice. Tickets are just \$12 (\$10 for seniors/students) and can be reserved by calling 337-4767. Refreshments will be available. See www.claieroche.com for more info about Claire.

Saturday, April 17 (10am - 9pm) - 2010 Boneyard Arts Festival. The festival runs Thursday, April 15 through Saturday, April 19, but Saturday is designated as Downtown Urbana's District Day. Heartland Gallery will be a participating venue as usual, so look for more info next month. A complete schedule of all venues and artists will be available on the 40 North website at www.40north.org.

Thursday, April 22 (8pm) - Mairtin de Cogain Project Concert, a Piper's Hut Concert Series event sponsored by Dean Karres, and hosted by Heartland Gallery. Mairtin hails from Cork, and you may remember him from last year's concert with The Fuschia Band at Heartland Gallery. This time, he is with a new band and it promises to be an evening of fun. For more info, please see www.pipers-hut.com. And, as always, it is recommended that you reserve a space in order to assure yourself a seat. Tickets are \$10-20 and refreshments will be available.

Please note from Dean's website that another Piper's Hut event will take place on April 9th, but this one will probably be a house concert. Watch for more details.

Spring will be here in no time, so enjoy the snow while it lasts. Drop by when you have a chance. And, as always, your patronage is deeply appreciated.

Jan Chandler

Heartland Gallery

112 W. Main St., Urbana

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www.heartland-gallery.com

Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10am – 5pm