

# 510 Warren Street: Artist-owned gallery thrives in Hudson

By **Peggy Reeves and Nina Lipkowitz**

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2 Comments



'Poultry and Pixels' exhibit, watercolors and iPad paintings, at 510 Warren Street Gallery.

**Hudson, N.Y.** — As any visual artist, writer or composer will tell you, time making art is time spent alone, in isolation. A painter or sculptor may share studio space and come together for group exhibitions, musicians might play in a group but the work of creating art is usually done in solitude.

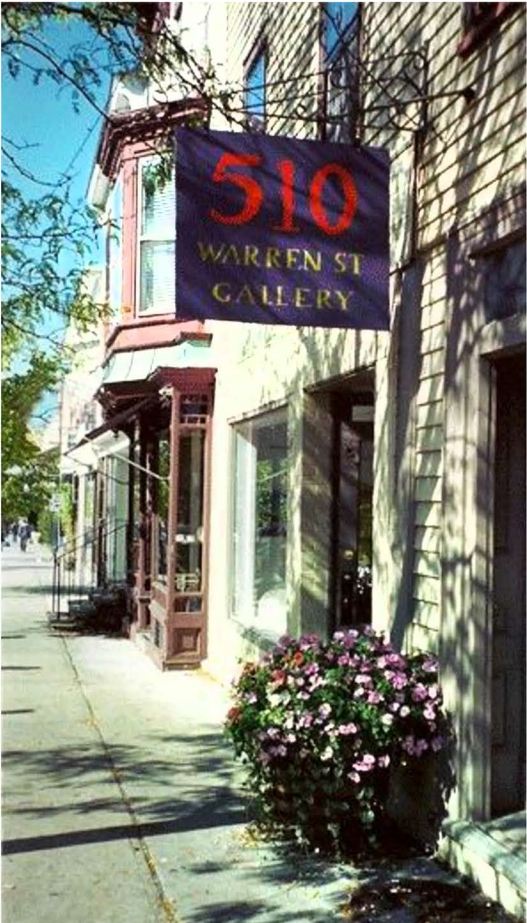
Most artists hope for the chance to share their work. However, the majority do not find themselves in the enviable position of being seen or recognized by the outside world, and bemoan the difficulties related to getting gallery representation where, if lucky, they might show a body of work every year or two.

In 2010 a group of artists came together to address both of these issues. The main question then, and one that continues to be reframed now is; how can a group of artists with limited resources, with a desire to exhibit and little experience in management run a successful art gallery?

It was the brainchild of Kate Knapp, an artist working and teaching in the Berkshires for 30+ years. She had participated in a co-op gallery at her own Front Street Gallery in Housatonic, Mass. She knew the joys and pitfalls of running a cooperative gallery.

510 Warren Street Gallery began with a conversation she had with one of her students who was lamenting the difficulty of finding a renter for a beautiful but vacant gallery space in a building she and her husband owned on artsy Warren Street in the heart of Hudson, New York. The storefront had an exceptional history as a movie theater, an antique shop and artsy café before becoming an art gallery. Warren Street was going through a renaissance and many galleries, antique shops, boutiques and restaurants were appearing along the mile-long main street running perpendicular to the Hudson River.

The initial group of 14 got together in the late summer of 2010 to discuss how to proceed and the gallery opened on October 9, 2010. Could 14 artists, after a little more than one month of planning, work together to manage and run an art gallery? In addition to Kate’s experience one had been a member of a large, cooperative crafts gallery in New York City, and one had owned a gallery/frame shop in Great Barrington. However, most were as green at starting a gallery as a new tube of Winsor Newton viridian oil paint.



The facade of 510 Warren Street Gallery.



Photographer Peggy Reeves .

The new entrepreneurs realized quickly that some of the jobs needed to be handled by professionals as they would rather devote more of their time to creating art. The gallery/sales manager, Sam Sebre, a talented artist, musician and radio talk show host, was hired along with a professional bookkeeper. All members receive a door key and have the ability to open the gallery and volunteer their time any day the gallery manager is not on duty.

In addition to featured artist exhibitions and receptions by members, the gallery hosts an Annual Invitational Show to give 4-5 non-member artists an opportunity to exhibit their work. In addition, the gallery donates a small section of wall space curated by the gallery manager each month to one artist from a nearby New York county, bringing fresh faces and new energy to the gallery.

Once a month there is a business meeting and the entire gallery is rehung, replacing the work that has sold and also giving each artist an opportunity to experiment with and curate his or her own space. This is perhaps the most valuable part of having an artist owned gallery. Unlike commercial galleries where a director has full creative control over what is on display, at 510 Warren Street Gallery each exhibiting member has the opportunity to experiment and push their creativity each month as wall space morphs and changes. Curating one’s own space opens creative doors and the communal benefits of group support make for interesting conversation as progress is made during installations.

At present, the eight full-share members and six half-share members bring to the gallery a rich variety of artistic styles and mediums. Many members have come and gone. In addition to Kate Knapp and lending stability to the enterprise, three of the original group; painter, Nina Lipkowitz, photographer, John Lipkowitz, and painter/landlord, Hannah Mandel have been with the gallery from the beginning. Photography, collage, painting, digital and mixed media work hangs in comfortable synergy in a space that invites the viewer to linger and get more in touch with their personal preferences. The June Invitational which will be held this year from June 3 to June 26 with an opening reception on June 4 from 3-6, brings five new artists to the gallery. As Hudson continues to become a magnet for artists and collectors, the 510 Warren Street Gallery remains anchored in the heartbeat of the city.



Painter Nina Lipkowitz

*The 510 Warren Street Gallery is open Friday & Saturday 12-6 and Sunday 12-5 or by appointment- 518-822-0510, 510warrenstreetgallery@gmail.com, 510warrenstreetgallery.com.*