

# Grand Bohemian Gallery Debut Sneak Preview

Guests and collectors sipped champagne with blackberries while mingling with local artists at a sneak preview of the Grand Bohemian Gallery last Saturday. Ensnared in the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Biltmore Village, the gallery showcases the work of national, international, local and regional artists.

In a charming space with artwork hung practically floor-to-ceiling, the paintings, sculptures and jewelry range in style from narrative and expressionistic to contemporary, representational, and abstract.

Over the weekend the works of five local artists and visiting Savannah jewelry artist and North Carolina native Meredith Sutton debuted in the elegant art space.

Introducing the work of Linda McCane, a Chicago native who raised her daughters in Spartanburg, SC, only to begin painting as an adult after studying at the New York Studio School, the Grand Bohemian Gallery selected still lifes and "abstracted interiors" to showcase her work for the first time in Asheville. A resident now for three years, McCane

spent a summer in Italy studying cathedrals – recreating interior archways, angles, and halls with

glancing at and glimpsing the world around us," McCane explains. Her abstracted pieces invite viewers

with his intricate raku sculptures, depicting entire universes on the smooth skins of the oval ceramics. Interested in the impact of the Hubble telescope on the 20th century, Peverall has captured galaxies in delicate crackled glaze and geometric images.

Jesse Lee's mirrors with hand-hammered copper frames – crafted in his Leicester studio – enchant in their simple beauty, while the work of Vadim Bora (originally from Asheville's Sister City of Vladikavkaz) brings a depth of expression that crosses cultures with his unique series of narrative ethnic paintings and portraits. Asheville-based sculptor Binna Green will be showing her

animistic terra cotta sculptures during the month of May.

Guests were also introduced to international artist Jean Claude Roy – a French and Canadian national who shows exclusively in the United States with the Grand Bohemian Galleries. Using mainly palette knife and a self-proclaimed "colorist-expressionist" style, Roy visited the area at the behest of hotel owner Richard Kessler. Roy's resulting paintings of Hickory Nut Gap, Looking Glass Falls, Chimney Rock and other local scenes, in addition to his French landscapes, decorate the third floor, spa, and gallery.

*Continued on page 8*



Local artist Vadim Bora shown with Corporate Gallery Director Vanessa Hall.

a unique eye, into a contemporary vision of ancient structures.

"In the crazy, full-tilt pace to which we can often feel tethered, our eyes have become habituated to simply scanning and skimming,

to study the works, allowing patchworks of color and angles to converge into the image that lies within each piece.

Burnsville artist Carl Peverall brings three dimensions to the fore

*Continued from page 3*

Canadian painter Stefan Horick's highly decorative works of amorphous landscapes, also created with palette knife, vie for attention with the oxidized and patinaed copper wall hangings of artist and alchemist James Kitchens, while soft mountain landscapes of Charlotte native Mitch Kolbe – painted on his family's property in Fairview – decorate the restaurant, bar, fourth floor and rooms.

The muted and moody "dreamscapes" of Connecticut painter Joshua Smith add atmosphere to the hotel's second floor and viewing room of the



Local artist Vadim Bora (left) shown with hotel owner Richard Kessler (middle) and hotel guest Bill Row

Grand Bohemian Gallery. The state-of-the-art viewing room,

in fact, allows paintings to be highlighted individually, with the

ability to manipulate atmospheric lighting and natural lighting in order to mimic various home and office lighting situations.

With music and art as an overriding theme of Grand Bohemian Hotel, original art lines the corridors of each floor, the restaurant and lounge – making virtually the entire hotel a gallery. A gallery annex in the Manor House across the way affords more space for hanging the works of nationally-known artists such as Thomas Arvid, German artist Peter Keil and Southern folk artist Cornbread. Art tours of this space and within the main building are available for groups small and large, by appointment.

Small gallery events, such as last Saturday's collectors' preview, as well as jewelry trunk shows with guest artists will be a part of the Grand Bohemian Gallery repertoire throughout the year.

The Grand Bohemian opened in Biltmore Village earlier this year. It has the theme of a European hunting lodge and has become a popular gathering space for both visitors and local residents.

**For more information:**  
**Grand Bohemian Gallery**  
**Grand Bohemian Hotel**  
**(828) 398-5555**  
**[www.bohemianasheville.com](http://www.bohemianasheville.com)**  
**11 Boston Way**  
**Asheville, NC 28803**