

# Arts

## Creating a new type of gallery

*Visitors to Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery experience the finished works alongside sketches and works in progress*

By Constance E. Richards

SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Asheville has plenty of elegant galleries in the heart of downtown, and it also has its share of unrefined studio spaces along the riverfront. Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery, Asheville's newest gallery, located on Battery Park Avenue, is a clever combination of the two.

With an opening exhibition titled "Facets," Bora, whose works hang in museums, galleries and private collections around the world, invites art lovers into the artist's laboratory. Much like in a studio, the familiar scent of turpentine and oil paint lingers in the background. Partially painted canvases wait on easels. Yet, similar to a gallery, neatly labeled paintings and portraits line the walls. Small sculptures sit on pedestals around the spacious and light atelier.

"Facets," referring to the multiple disciplines in which Bora works — painting, sculpture, graphics, jewelry design, murals and landscape ornamentation — introduces an amalgam of new works, created specifically for the show, as well as a retrospective of the artist's works since arriving in

America from the state of North Ossetia in southern Russia some six years ago.

Graphics, sculptures, portraits, pen and ink drawings, charcoal sketches, as well as works which have never before been shown, are a part of the exhibition, which will include the space of the Artworks and Framing shop downstairs and

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Opening reception for the exhibition "Facets"

**WHERE:** Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery, 30 1/2 Battery Park Ave.

**WHEN:** 6-9 p.m. Nov. 19

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Call (828) 254-7959

the Out 'n' About office.

Particularly engaging are Bora's portraits — paintings and sculptures — many of which depict a variety of recognizable Asheville residents. The newest works in "Facets" encom-

pass the idea of woman as a symbol of life — in conjunction with air, water, fire, sun, ice and earth. In individual paintings, the strapping, corpulent figures are frozen in action — one jumps into frigid pools of water, another bounds over the glowing embers of a fire, another cowers from the pelting of hail, another worships the sun. A new series of autumn landscapes depict angry skies and vibrantly colored trees, an ode to our most infamous mountain season.

"I am glad to have exhibited in galleries

and look forward to doing so in the future, but this studio-gallery gives me the freedom of experimentation," says Bora.

"I can put my ideas down on paper or canvas, complete them, and have them up for people to view without having to fit into the niche of a particular gallery or of a particular show. People enjoy

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VADIM BORA



Visitors to Vadim Bora's new studio-gallery in downtown Asheville can get an up-close look of an artist at work. Bora's paintings, including this one titled "Wild Apple Tree," are featured in an exhibit titled "Facets" opening later this month.

speaking with an artist directly, and if someone happens to stop by while I'm working, I'm more than happy to explain or answer any question which will enrich his or her knowledge of art."

Art lovers won't have to wait for a studio-stroll to visit this space, where they can see works-in-progress, view the artist's portfolio and collaborate on commissioning their own works. A knock on the

door or phone call will suffice.

Bora explains that his studio in his hometown of Vladikavkaz was always open to his students and collectors, a tradition which he wishes to continue here.