

# The Muse Gallery and Café

By David Giles

*A new gallery and café has opened in Bancroft*

Wonderful art and great coffee! This perfect combination defines a new Bancroft venture, the Muse Gallery and Café, which is now open and welcoming clients and visitors at 23 Bridge Street West.

The Muse's owner, Magdalena Bobula, hosted the gallery's packed Grand Opening on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This gala event celebrated an important addition to the Bancroft and North Hastings art scene, and brought together the exhibiting artists and other members of the local art community. The lively and enthusiastic gathering set the scene for a much-anticipated opening season for The Muse, and guests enjoyed the music provided by pianists Inna Yevdokymova, Kamal Ameli, and Stevie Wutnot.

With a warm and friendly atmosphere, the Muse Gallery and Café promises to set high standards with both the visual art that is exhibited and for sale, and the offerings from the barista. The art itself is displayed salon-style, adding to the overall impact on visitors.

"Selecting my artists was like a treasure hunt", says Magdalena, "and I'm honoured to be exhibiting with such a talented group". The result is an impressive line-up of artists that includes Eric Weiner, Wendy Snefjellå, Molly Moldovan, Andy Snyder, Linda Sorensen, Ketha Newman, Arne Roosman, Philo Smith, and Ken Balmer.

Between them, these talented artists offer an outstanding opening collection based on media ranging from acrylics, oils, and watercolours; to painting on silk, photography, and sculpture.

Looking forward, visitors to The Muse can expect to see openings and rotations of the works of these, and other, artists every two months. If the initial collection is any indication, local and out-of-town art enthusiasts will be able to immerse themselves in a rich and vibrant selection of visual art, while enjoying the best coffee in town. Future plans for The Muse also include workshops, concerts and other events starting in the new year.

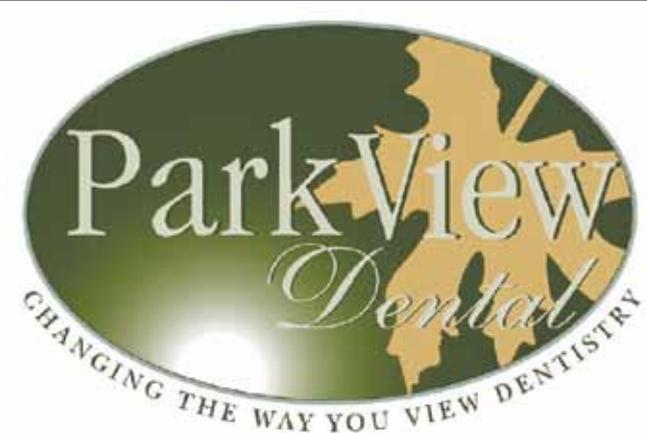
Magdalena, who has several years' experience working in a gallery setting, supporting artists with the presentation of their material, and with event organizing, is herself an established and accomplished artist who creates in a variety of

media. Photography is her first and endearing love, and her work has been exhibited successfully in Poland, Australia, and Canada.

"For me, this is a piece of Europe – where the merger of an art gallery and a café is very common", says Magdalena. "The comfortable setting of a café is very conducive to relaxing around art and letting it do its magic. Opening The Muse is a dream come true".

One of Magdalena's goals is to promote Bancroft as an established destination for art lovers and dealers, by providing a new focal point for art appreciation and enjoyment in the area. "Art is for everybody – it should be enjoyed by everyone – and my hope is that The Muse will be welcoming and inviting for all, regardless of the level of their knowledge of fine art."

The winter hours for The Muse are Wednesday to Friday, 8a.m. – 5p.m., and weekends 10a.m. – 5p.m. This will provide ample time for art lovers to linger and enjoy the outstanding pieces on display, and the delights afforded by the only original Italian espresso machine in Bancroft.



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