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Gallery moving to Pittsfield

By Scott Stafford, Berkshire Eagle Staff

Speed: Manual



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[Gallery moving to Pittsfield](#)

6/1/2007 -- Owners Leslie Ferrin and Donald Clark get ready to open Ferrin Gallery at 433 North St. in Pittsfield recently. The gallery is scheduled to open for limited hours June 14, with a grand opening slated for July 7. Photo By: Caroline Bonnavier

Friday, June 01

PITTSFIELD — The downtown art scene is about to get even more colorful.

An exclusive art showplace in Lenox, Ferrin Gallery is on the verge of opening a shop at 433 North St. in Pittsfield, with plans to close the Lenox location in the fall.

According to owners Leslie Ferrin and Donald Clark, they had been seeking a larger space for some time, even considering buying a whole building to house gallery space and rent the rest for residential use.

But as their options narrowed, it became clear to them, they said, that Pittsfield was the place to be, and that the building, owned by George Whaling, was the right location, the right size and in an exciting part of town.

In addition, Whaling was willing to sell the retail space to them, rather than leasing, making the plan even more enticing.

"We're really art dealers, not real estate developers," noted Clark. "And this is the vibrant end of North Street and Pittsfield."

Ferrin Gallery was established in Northampton in 1979 and remained there throughout the reinvigoration

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that occurred during the 1980s and '90s.

It moved to Lenox in 2002.

"Leslie and I were both in Northampton during its very exciting revitalization," Clark said. "In Pittsfield, we see the same gathering of artists combining with a dedicated mayor working with the City Council to bring this city back to life as a cultural center. There is something cooking in Pittsfield, and we want to be a part of it."

The Ferrin Gallery hosts a number of showings every year, focusing on contemporary art, sculpture and ceramics, representing artists from around the country and well-known regional artists.

The gallery will open June 14, with a grand opening celebration slated for July 7. The hours will be Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Starting June 21, Wednesday and Sunday will be added to the hours.

Prices at the gallery range from \$200 to \$50,000.

Besides the gallery space — at 1,500 square feet more than twice the size of the gallery in Lenox — the partners are buying a condo on the third floor to house visiting clients and artists.

With Barrington Stage Company, the Colonial Theatre, the Berkshire Museum, Spice and the Storefront Artist Project, Clark and Ferrin expect to be operating year-round.

"In Lenox, the activity lasts only about two months, when Tanglewood is open," Ferrin noted. "But here in Pittsfield, things are happening year-round. This community functions much better for a year-round gallery."

Whaling said the arrangement with the Ferrin Gallery made sense for both parties. He termed it a "retail condo."

"It's unique to Pittsfield, but not to places like Northampton and New York City," he said. "It's good because it gives them the ability to build equity as their business grows, and I can get out of that part of the building confident that it will be well-maintained."

» Gallery hours

Starting June 14, the Ferrin Gallery will be open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment.
On June 21, Wednesday and Sunday will be added to the hours.
A grand opening celebration is scheduled for July 7.

The new gallery consists of two long spaces, which can be divided for various types of artists or styles, depending on the show.

"It's exciting to be able to present work in a new way," Ferrin said. "And everybody is so excited that we're here."

The inaugural show at the North Street gallery will feature international contemporary sculptor Sergei Isupov.

The Lenox gallery will host a showing of regional artists titled "We Are Here."

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