

If you live in the Truckee Meadows, you live in a watershed

Did you know that we live in a watershed? The Truckee River Watershed, that is. It starts high up in the Sierras at Lake Tahoe. Then, whenever it rains or snows, water drains downhill through rivers, like the Truckee River, streams, and creeks. What most of us don't know is that our watershed is endorheic, meaning that our watershed does not drain into the ocean like most in the country. Our watershed drains right into Pyramid Lake, a terminal lake with no outlet other than evaporation or seepage into the groundwater. The Truckee River Watershed also provides us with water, something especially important given that we live in the desert. In fact, 85% of our drinking water is sourced from the Truckee River. This is why it's important to keep pollutants out of our watershed. Pollutants like trash, soap, pet waste, pesticides, antifreeze, oil and gas drippings, and fertilizer are considered nonpoint source pollution because they don't originate from a specific place; instead they are collected from various places as the surface runoff flows over the ground, like our streets, toward the river. These nonpoint source pollutants travel through our storm drains and into the river, where they can harm our aquatic wildlife and alter ecosystems.

While nonpoint source pollutants may seem like they are not a big deal, over time their impact adds up and that's when they can become a big problem. Here is a list of all the simple things we can do to make a positive difference!

1. Keep your trash or recycling from blowing out of your bins.
2. Make sure your sprinklers aren't watering the street.
3. Make sure you know how to dispose of fertilizers and pesticides properly as they are considered household hazardous waste. Find out more at ktmb.org/recycle.
4. Take your car to the car wash. Car washing businesses have to collect and recycle their polluted, soapy water so it doesn't flow into a storm drain.
5. Pick up after your pet on walks! Dog feces can contain up to 23 million fecal coliform bacteria known to cause cramps, intestinal illnesses, and kidney disorders in humans and can transmit over 65 diseases to humans. Plus, it's just gross.
6. Volunteer for a cleanup or storm drain stencilling project. KTMB's Truckee River Cleanup is Saturday, September 28, 2019. Find out more at ktmb.org/volunteer.

For all of these reasons and more, we must do what we can to protect and preserve the Truckee River Watershed. Just remember, only rain in the storm drains!

Photo: Chris Ewing - Mindwidge Creative



Loryn Norman poses next to four of her pieces in *Behind the Counter*.

PHOTO/MATT BIEKER

Own supply Nevada Fine Arts Gallery

For the past 50 years, Nevada Fine Arts,

1301 S. Virginia St., has been a one-stop-shop for local artists—supplying tools of the trade, teaching new techniques and offering custom framing for new and heirloom pieces. For the past three years, however, it's also been a space for those artists to show their work in the small basement gallery in the form of monthly shows. This month's exhibit comes full circle, as all the featured artists are also NFA employees.

"This is actually the first time in the history of the last few years, of the 50 years, where we've had all artists that work here," said Mark Hammon, who co-owns NFA with his partner, Debbie Wolff. "So, everybody who is working for us has some level of passion for art, and that's kind of transformed the store."

The show is aptly titled *Behind the Counter*, and features work from every employee at the store—of which there are over a dozen, including the owners—in a variety of mediums. Among them are familiar techniques like photography, acrylic paints and charcoals, as well as screen printing, woodblocks, ceramics and mixed media—like "Murder Cube," a small plexiglass box full of used razor blades.

Hammon and Wolff decided to put the show together six months ago when a gap in their calendar offered the opportunity. At a staff meeting, the employees all agreed and were enthusiastic to create new pieces and show some older ones. The result is an eclectic distillation of what all the materials sold upstairs aspire to be, and each piece has a story.

"I actually have a heart condition, so a lot of my stuff deals with things related to the heart," said Tyler Flores, one of the

shop managers. "I have this piece right here, and basically it's a printmaking piece using 'invisible ink,' some people call it, where you're just leaving the impression on the paper. It's dealing with different—I want to say more than 'birth defects,' where people don't really notice them. ... I also have this book called '50 Shades of Bae.' It's 50 different versions of how to create a heart."

"Charcoal is, like, my first love, but I actually got a nerve condition and I've got so many other things going on that I haven't really been able to draw in a long time," said Carolyn Ding, of her piece "View from C Street." "This is my view from my window. I live in Virginia City on C Street."

"This was just kind of an experiment when it started, but it's all just wood glue that we use in the frame shop," added Loryn Norman, a manager whose piece "Spooky Glue" features Halloween imagery laid over a glass pane. "I want to do more of an intentional piece using it, so playing around with how the glues blend together. And then the color comes from the Tombow [colored pens] that we sell."

Shows at the NFA Gallery are installed on the first Saturday of every month and usually include a full reception. Several works from *Behind the Counter* sold during the Sept. 7 reception, prompting the owners to create prints of many pieces, which can be perused in a display near the ceramics in the middle of the L-shaped gallery.

Hiring artists, Hammon said, makes for better customer service and a more curated inventory, and opening the basement to show artwork has created a small, hyper-local gallery. It's a benefit to both employees, artists and art-lovers—especially when they're all the same people. □

Behind the Counter will be on display in the Nevada Fine Arts Gallery, 1301 S. Virginia St., until Oct. 5. Call 786-1128 or go to nvfinearts.com for details.