

Art Alley at Pybus Public Market

3 N Worthen St, Wenatchee, WA

December 2022



This month's show at Pybus Market's **Art Alley** is by oil painter Brad Brisbane. On Thursdays Rotary meets here. Brisbane's show will be up through December.





PYBUS MARKET'S ART ALLEY

Pybus has added a new space, called Art Alley, for showcasing works by local artists. And while Art Alley exists in a fairly small thoroughway at the popular market, the visibility and impact of the exhibits are substantial. We chatted with Alley curator Zach Davies to learn more about the space.

When and how did Art Alley come to exist?

The Pybus Art Committee knew that we needed something different at the start of 2022. We would have shows in the conference room toward the back of Pybus. It was not a very visible space, so turn-outs were quite low. During one meeting, someone came up with the idea to turn the hall between the main Pybus concourse and Pybus Event Center into a venue to celebrate art and get 100x the visibility of the previous space. However, without the passion and vision of JoAnn Walker, the Pybus Art Committee chair, and the amazing support and work of Pybus General Manager Travis Hornby and his team, the Art Alley would still not exist. There was definitely a lot of work to be done!

What has the response been?

Overwhelmingly positive. Not only has the NCW art community's feedback been enthusiastic, but we are getting people that have never been involved in anything concerning art excited as well. At our first First Friday event in June, we had over 200 people attend. One memorable encounter I had at the First Friday event was a family with two young children visiting from Idaho. The six-year old girl had a sketchbook and wanted to look at each piece closely. The featured artist at the time specialized in abstract paintings. I asked the girl, "what do you see in that painting?" The girl's imagination ran wild and the family

and I came up with tons of ideas. It was a lot of fun. We are looking forward to building on this momentum.

Who is in charge of the art curating?

It is a team effort with everyone on the Pybus Art Committee. We work with the artists themselves in regards to positioning. We figure that there is no one better to be in charge of the presentation of the art than the artists!

How do you find new art/artists to feature - does it change every month?

For the last two months, we have had Robert Wilson's art in the Art Alley. In fact, we have dedicated the Art Alley to Robert Wilson, who was such a positive influence on the art scene at Pybus and North Central Washington. Sadly, Robert passed away in 2020. If you go to the Art Alley, there is a permanent plaque with his picture and a brief description of the amazing life he led. It was an honor for us to make the Art Alley a celebration of him! Starting in July, the art will change every month. Our summer lineup features Victor and Kellie von Beck in July, Terry Valdez in August and Jennifer Evenhus in September.

Is there an open call for artists to apply? If so, are there requirements that must be met?

Frankly, the response from the art community has been so overwhelming, our schedule is filled until late Spring of 2023. We don't want to schedule artists too far in advance, but I must say that I totally underestimated the pull of the Art Alley. As a committee, we have discussed future show possibilities. One such concept is featuring the youth of our area. We have some amazingly creative young people doing outstanding art in North Central Washing-



ton. We are trying to envision how that concept will work. With regard to the artists showing, we do require them to send two or three pdfs of their work along with a sentence to describe their work to the Pybus office for marketing purposes. We also require artists to make their own tags and use their creativity to introduce themselves on a sign at the entrance of the Art Alley.

You mentioned First Friday, so there are openings for Art Alley?

YES! We have started participating in First Fridays (5-7pm) and that is a great time to meet the artist(s), enjoy some of the products that other Pybus merchants have to offer (beer and wine are available, cost is by donation - we have to keep First Fridays running!), and there is live music every Friday night at Pybus. Many of the artists on our schedule are working on new art that will be premiered on their month, which will be extremely exciting. A couple of the artists plan to speak about some of their works in a group setting. I will estimate those to occur at around 5:30pm. As evidenced so far, the First Fridays will be a great time for everyone.

Are the pieces priced and for sale? Who

handles those sales if so?

Yes, this is a great place to come and purchase art! The artists love the support. Anytime that someone would like to buy a piece of art, the Pybus office can facilitate the sale. All art purchases can be handled through the main office Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Is there anywhere online folks can get an idea of what exhibit is currently on display?

Yes, our Pybus Market website Event Calendar shows the upcoming artists at Art Alley.

pybuspublicmarket.org/robert-wilson-art-alley/

Art Alley has its own Instagram page with the handle: [pybus_art_alley](https://www.instagram.com/pybus_art_alley)

Posters and images will be posted on this page as well as the Pybus Market Instagram page: [pybuspublicmarket](https://www.instagram.com/pybuspublicmarket)

You can also find upcoming events on the Pybus Facebook page, the Downtown Association's First Friday website, or the NCW Arts Alliance. ☺

Art Alley is a venue that gets a lot of exposure to the public. Our members & other artists are asked to show their work here. Next month Nicki Isaacson will be showing her watercolors here.