

## History on display at Worthington Galleries

Josh Cross, [jcross@mtcngroup.com](mailto:jcross@mtcngroup.com) 2:38 p.m. CDT July 12, 2016



(Photo: Josh Cross/Gallatin News Examiner)

A new Gallatin art gallery, featuring a portion of what its owners say is considered to be the largest private fine art collection in Tennessee, will open its doors to the public this week.

Worthington Galleries, located at 1181 Nashville Pike, will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, July 14. The event will be the first time the public can view some of the approximately 150 pieces on display from the collection, which in some cases are thousands of years old.

"Art is not exciting if it's in the closet in the dark," said owner Michael Keever. "The emphasis is to display something that at least my family has collected over a number of generations, and if somebody likes a piece so much that they'd like to buy it, then absolutely (they can)."

With an emphasis on paintings — including works from Rembrandt, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol — Worthington's 2,000-plus piece collection spans multiple genres of art.

Pieces also include photographic art, ceramics, old books and manuscripts along with ancient coinage, ancient medals and jewelry made in approximately 1500 to 2000 B.C. There is also clay pottery from the Sumerian culture dating back to approximately 4,000 to 6,000 B.C.



In addition to paintings, the Worthington Galleries collection also includes ceramics, ancient coinage, and ancient jewelry. (Photo: Josh Cross/Gallatin News Examiner)

"It is quite the honor to have an establishment like Worthington Galleries choose Gallatin to call home," said Kim Myers, executive director of the Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce. "Their quality pieces are like no other and I can only imagine the additional draw it will add to our city."

Items from the collection that are on display are expected to be rotated often to add variety to those who visit, according to Keever. There is no cost to tour the gallery, which will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For those looking to purchase artwork, prices can range from \$50 for a framed print up to seven figures for the most expensive pieces, said Keever. However, much of the space at Worthington Galleries has been devoted to the more affordable selection.

"A lot of people can't afford more than \$250 to \$500 for a painting and I completely appreciate that," Keever said. "So, two of the largest rooms will just be devoted to original oil paintings that are high quality, but are really affordable."

Additional artwork, including photographs and descriptions, are available online at [www.worthingtongalleries.com](http://www.worthingtongalleries.com).

In the coming months, Keever said Worthington Galleries plans to offer various classes to the public, which include one on art appreciation.

"There is nothing better than learning history with a painting," he said. "There are some paintings that, generally speaking, young students don't get a chance to view in person."

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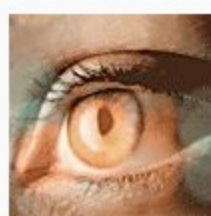
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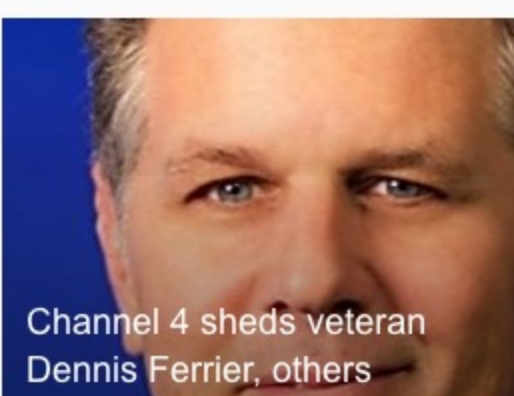
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