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Brandon folk artist to open new gallery

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Renowned contemporary folk artist Warren Kimble is opening a brand new art galley in downtown Brandon. An open house celebration will take place during the town's Arts and Wine Festival this weekend.

The 66-year-old Brandon artist said he was not too old to open a new gallery.

"I have been painting since I was a kid," he said. "It's what I do. I don't think I have done anything else."

Kimble and his wife decided to open the new galley because many downtown stores have closed and the gallery would add to the town, he said.

"We decided it would be good for the town, for us" Kimble said. "It would be good for tourism."

Janet Mondlak, of the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, said the opening of the gallery is great for the town.

"Brandon is known as an art town," she said. "When (Kimble) first retired, people came to town looking for his gallery."

Kimble has owned two galleries and his art studio in town. At the new space, he merged the gallery to included his open-spaced studio.

"The gallery and the studio are one," Kimble said. "People can come in and see it. It is not closed."

The new gallery will feature a lot of his folk art paintings, as well as his new work, which he said is more abstract.

"The new work is based on the sun and what it does for us," Kimble said. "In the winter it feels good and it provides food."

Other work by Kimble can be found at Brandon Music, and at the Liza Myers Gallery in Brandon features original paintings.

An open house on Saturday will celebrate the opening of the gallery from 4-6 p.m. during this weekend's Brandon's Arts and Wine Festival.

In its seventh year, the weekend festival will feature various arts, from painting and jewelry making to the culinary arts, sponsored by the Brandon Artist's Guild and the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This year we decided to revamp and change it this year," Mondlak said.

This year's festival has been revamped and changed as a one-time-only festival with workshops and classes with art and culinary artists. Although prior registration is required for the workshops, Mondlak said she encourages people to go to the Brandon Inn for walk-in registration on Saturday.

Also new this year is the Wine Trail sponsored by the Vermont Grape and Wine Council, featuring a wine tasting from five Vermont wineries at five different galleries around Brandon.

"For \$5, a person can buy a wine glass and go to the different galleries to see what the wineries are doing," Mondlak said.

A cabin-fever dance at the Brandon Inn in the evening will feature local band, The Avant-Garde Dogs, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

To end the weekend, Brandon's Boys and Girls Club will host their second annual Taste of Vermont fundraiser featuring the Vermont's finest cheese makers, farms, vintners and chefs.

The fundraiser will begin at the Lilac Inn with cheese and wine at 4 p.m. before moving to the Brandon Inn for a full dinner.

As a way to create more interaction at the gallery, Kimble said he will be putting a piano keyboard he purchased outside of the gallery, when the weather changes.

"Anyone who passes by the gallery will be able to play," he said.