

# Artistic treasures in Riegelsville: Baum to Picasso found at Del Val Fine Art

*Karen Gross*

It might surprise the average passer-by, but inside a former bank building in Riegelsville are artistic treasures by world-renowned masters.

Displayed at Del Val Fine Art Museum and Gallery on Delaware Road are works attributed to Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Mary Cassatt and Amedeo Modigliani, to name a few.

Paintings from the Pennsylvania Impressionist school also adorn the walls, capturing local scenes such as Walter Baum's "Applebachsville Winter."

There were recently a half dozen works by Bucks County's Ranulph Bye until a customer bought them all.

"You don't have to go to the city to go to a museum," said Dr. Richard Densmore, a resident of Springfield Township who opened Del Val Fine Art in March.

A pharmacist turned art connoisseur, he loves touring guests around the spacious gallery, explaining the history of each painting.

Dr. Densmore wants the museum and gallery to be a destination for art and antique collectors as well as visitors wishing to get an up-close look at works by the masters.

"There is art here in the hun-



Dr. Richard Densmore with "Applebachsville Winter" by Walter Baum. Del Val Fine Art features work by the Bucks County and Lehigh Valley schools of Pennsylvania Impressionism.



"Tou Mon Famille" by Pablo Picasso is on view at Del Val Fine Art Museum and Gallery.

dreds of dollars to the tens of millions. There's something for everyone," he said.

The former National Bank of Riegelsville building has proven an appropriate home for Del Val Fine Art.

Dr. Densmore uses the bank's old vault to keep the masterpieces safe.

The old teller counter serves as a workshop area where he labors on art restoration, framing and cleaning services. He also provides art appraisals.

Off from the main gallery, he is creating a separate room of affordable works for beginning art collectors.

"My goal is to outgrow this place as soon as possible," he noted.

A lifelong resident of Bucks County, Dr. Densmore began developing his own art collection 12 years ago.

He favors Pennsylvania Impressionists of the New Hope and Lehigh Valley schools and owns works by Daniel Garber, George Sotter and John Fulton Folinsbee.

"As the collection grew and as my tastes changed I would take the works to auction. I found it profitable," he explained.

As his art business expanded, he began acquiring works by the big-name international masters.

He now sells fine art to clients around the world through the gallery, the internet and art auctions.

Lately Dr. Densmore has a preference for Baum and Mel Stark, whose works he calls an "uncommon value." Stark was Baum's student and went on to teach Impressionist landscape painting at the Kline-Baum Art School and Muhlenberg College in the Allentown area.

In addition to running the gallery business, Dr. Densmore established the nonprofit Del Val Fine Art Consortium to serve as a lending library of fine art, information, and educational programs for museums, schools, libraries, and public exhibits.

The consortium's focus is on Pennsylvania Impressionists of the late 19th century through

the third quarter of the 20th century.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, visitors can stop by the Del Val Fine Art Museum and Gallery and enjoy Dr. Densmore's informative tour.

"Without the history of a painting or a painter it's just a decorative piece of art. For me it's important to find out who was who and the stories behind it. Every painting in here has a story," he said.

Del Val Fine Art Gallery and Museum, 107 Delaware Road in Riegelsville, is also open by appointment.

Call 610-749-0506 or visit [www.delvalfineart.org](http://www.delvalfineart.org).



"High Street, Honesdale" by Mel Stark.

## Renaissance Fair auditions scheduled

The Bucks County Renaissance Faire will hold auditions for novice to experienced performers of all ages from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 14, in the Wrightstown Village Library.

Each candidate must present a one-minute monologue or brief music sample and be prepared to improvise.

The audition session will be followed by actor workshops from 1 to 4 p.m.

For audition appointments, entry forms and information, call Ken Hone, 267-304-8060 or 215-348-6491, or email [vilagefaire@att.net](mailto:vilagefaire@att.net), or [thedefenders@hotmail.com](mailto:thedefenders@hotmail.com).

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