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Small work invitational



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Opening November 29 at Tree's Place in Orleans, Massachusetts, is the gallery's annual *Small Works Show*, where all 40 resident artists have been invited to submit work for the exhibit. On view will be numerous subjects, including still lifes, landscapes and florals. Participating artists include **Jacob A. Pfeiffer, Sarah Lamb, Tom Ouellette, Adam Rhude, Leslie F. Gabosh, Christopher Pierce, Sam Vokey, Marieluise Hutchinson**, and dozens of others.

Delectable paintings featuring desserts are among the highlights of the show, with everything from cakes to chocolates to candy being depicted on canvas.

Lamb's painting *Petite Cheesecake* is one such work. "I was first inspired to paint desserts when I saw Wayne Thiebaud's paintings of cakes and the way he handles icing," shares Lamb. "There is something whimsical and beautiful about them...Some of my favorite things to render in paint are cheese, butter, icing, and so on—anything that almost has the consistency of oil paint is really fun."

Another work on display is the 11-by-14-inch piece *Cake* by Vokey. "I love to eat cake with milk and coffee and it seemed like a worthy subject for a painting," says Vokey of the inspiration. "As with all my still lifes I am trying to achieve an arrangement that has balance, rhythm and harmony. Yes, I am painting the form of the objects revealed by the light, but beyond that I am hoping to achieve a lyrical quality that operates on the abstract level. The overall pattern of light and dark shapes is something that I spend time arranging to make it as interesting and varied as possible. A viewer may like the subject of the painting, but I hope the lyrical or abstract quality will hold their attention for the long term."

Rhude's painting *Box of Chocolates* goes beyond the subject with its range of texture: paper, metallic foils, ribbon, chocolate surfaces, etc. There also is a narrative aspect to the painting with inclusion of a note. Rhude further explains, "The addition of a note suggests this is a gift. Whether



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- 1**
Sam Vokey, *Cake*,
oil on linen, 11 x 14"
- 2**
Leslie F. Gabosh, *Candy
Cane*, oil on panel, 5 x 7"
- 3**
Sarah Lamb,
Petite Cheesecake,
oil on mounted canvas,
7½ x 11"
- 4**
Adam Rhude, *Box of
Chocolates*, oil on linen,
10 x 10"
- 5**
Christopher Pierce,
Alstroemeria, oil on linen,
10 x 8"

this offering is a declaration of love or an apology is up to the viewer."

Candy Cane by Gabosh shows "a simple iconic object that captures all the joys of the holidays. There are few who wouldn't recognize this simple and graphic sweet, sitting quietly amongst a few marbles, just a few small, peaceful reminders of the joys of the holiday that only cost pennies,"

she explains. "The limited palette helps to create a gentle moment in a sometimes chaotic, commercial time of year."

Floral paintings in the exhibition include Pierce's *Alstroemeria* with the vibrant pinks of the flowers silhouetted against a dark backdrop. He says, "Alstroemerias are always special and inspirational to me for two reasons. One, my grandmother who

raised me was not only the first person who showed me their beauty, but she also taught me how to spell their name when I was 5. Second, they seem to last longer than any other flower while posing."

Small Works Show will have a reception on opening night, November 29, from 5 to 7 p.m., and remains on view at Tree's Place through December 30. ●