

# Pouring creativity



Photos special to the IJ/Kevin Hagen

**MEET THE ARTIST:** Artist Georgette Osserman (center and at top) and Barbara Comnes of San Anselmo view one of Osserman's paintings during the grand opening of Sam the Butcher Contemporary Art studio. The shop was damaged in last year's flooding and has reopened as an art gallery.

# Sam the Butcher reinvents itself after flood as a chic gallery showcasing Sausalito artist

By Joe Wolfcale  
IJ reporter



**GRAND OPENING:** Sam the Butcher, formerly a butcher shop, had its grand opening Sunday as an art gallery under new ownership. The gallery will attempt to showcase local artists to introduce their work to the community.

**A**S A HOME CURATOR throughout Marin, Mill Valley's Kim Rawlings would have no problem securing a wall for any one of Georgette Osserman's latest artistic expressions, "After Pour."

Rawlings stopped by 19 Ross Commons on Sunday afternoon to take a peek at Osserman's 12 brilliant pieces on display in the building that had housed Sam the Butcher since 1968.

The building has been transformed into Sam the Butcher Contemporary Art gallery, and Osserman's display was the grand opening.

"After Pour" was inspired by the floods that battered most of Ross Valley and the county last New Year's Eve. The storms also forced Sam the Butcher owner Dennis Kemp to shut his doors.

"If I was buying any of these, I certainly would have not any problems using them for my clients," Rawlings said. "There are a lot of older homes in Marin, and what better way to brighten them up than a painting like any of these. I definitely saw some things that

See Gallery, page B2

## **GALLERY:** Former butcher shop makes its debut exhibiting art

From page B1

caught my eye."

The splendid gallery, divided by glass partitions, was the perfect backdrop for Osserman's paintings. They were bright splashes of extraordinary colors, shapes and textures on canvas, with price tags ranging from \$3,800 to \$9,000.

"My recent paintings are led by color, pattern and texture as opposed to subject matter," Osserman said. "I am a storyteller, and by building layers in my paintings, I have discovered that I can radically manipulate the texture, ground, effect and, ultimately, the story of each painting."

The names of the paintings were as abstract as the work.

---

*"Unlike pork chops, an art addiction is actually good for you, and our mission is to encourage everyone to develop one."*

---

— Gallery owner Marcel Houtzager

Among them: Butterfly, Lollipop, Pterodactyl and Dreamboat.

Osserman, who has a studio in Sausalito, has been practicing her craft in the Bay Area for more than three decades. Her trademark is large canvases, bright, bold colors and texture.

"The more contemporary art in Marin, the better, and the more art the better," Kentfield

resident Anne Rosenfeld said, after viewing Osserman's work. "This was a beautiful place for an exhibit."

The gallery will attempt to showcase local artists and include a reception like Sunday's to introduce the artists and expose their work to the community. The work will be on display for several months.

"Unlike pork chops, an art ad-

diction is actually good for you, and our mission is to encourage everyone to develop one," gallery owner Marcel Houtzager said. "We are trying to appeal to people who are passionate about contemporary art, and we expect to present them with exciting, fresh work in a fun and friendly environment."

Even 13-year-old Max Houtzager, who was helping serve refreshments, took time to examine the work. He's the son of the gallery owner.

"I really enjoy it," said Houtzager, an eighth-grader. "I really like all the colors."

---

Contact Joe Wolfcale via e-mail at [jwolfcale@marinij.com](mailto:jwolfcale@marinij.com)