

Gary Snyder Opens New Gallery in Manhattan, Montana

Gary Snyder Fine Art MT will open on October 23rd in Manhattan, Montana. The gallery will showcase the paintings of Ben Miller, an artist who paints the rivers of the Northern Rockies. The 1800 square foot space is located on Manhattan's Main Street and will be open Thursday through Sunday, 2 to 6PM, and by appointment.

Manhattan, Montana, population 2000, is 20 miles west of Snyder's home in Bozeman, where he has lived since October of 2018. "After close to twenty years in the New York City art world, I was ready for a change", says Snyder. "I visited Bozeman in the summer of 2018 and fell in love with Montana – three months later, I drove across the country to Bozeman and haven't looked back".

Gary Snyder is best known for his galleries in New York City from 1990 through 2008 that championed under-recognized historical artists, including Vivian Springford, Thomas Downing and Janet Sobel, all artists whose reputations and markets are now soaring. Snyder also developed important collections, including the J. Donald Nichols Collection of American Abstract Art of the 1930s and 1940s.

Snyder discovered the artist Ben Miller painting on the Gallatin River in June of 2019. Fascinated with how uniquely the artist captured the beauty and energy of rivers, Snyder began championing Ben, setting up shows in the summer of 2020 and 2021 at the Story Mill Gallery in Bozeman. For the exhibitions at the Story Mill Gallery, Snyder wrote the following:

"Ben Miller celebrates, and intimately paints, rivers - the lifeblood of our land. His paintings present the natural world as a place of pilgrimage, discovery, inspiration, beauty and worship.

Without witnessing Ben paint a painting, it is almost impossible to understand how they are made. He starts by setting up a homemade easel on the banks of a river, upon which he places a sheet of transparent plexiglass. Using traditional fly fishing rods, Ben substitutes handmade "fly-brushes" for conventional hooked flies, saturates them in acrylic paint, and casts from over twenty feet on to the plexi-glass. Over the course of a

day, he casts over one thousand times, the mark of each cast eventually making up a finished painting of a chosen river.

As if the process wasn't amazing enough, one comes to realize that Ben, in a sense, paints backwards – the actual finished painting is the reverse of the paint covered transparent polycarbonate. Turned around, the first strikes of the day are “on top” of the painting and the last form the backdrop.

Ben Miller brings together two disparate cultures – fly fishing culture and high art culture – each with much to learn from the other. They breathe new life into an art world struggling to balance art and nature on our rapidly changing and endangered planet.”

Ben Miller's art is the subject of a recent short film, “Rhythms of the River” by Manabu Inada of Inada Studios in Brooklyn, which can be seen at www.benmillerartist.com. Ben recently embarked on a new series, “Endangered Rivers”, that focuses on the rivers of the United States that are threatened by climate change, over-use, pollution and more.

The new gallery will also be the home of **Gary Snyder Art Advisory**, which draws on Snyder's thirty-year history of advising clients and building collections. The Bozeman area is in the news for its growth – a recent article in the Wall Street Journal was titled “Real Estate is Booming in Bozeman, Mont. – or should we say Boz Angeles”. The Big Sky resort, which is adjacent to the Yellowstone Club, is also in the midst of rapid expansion.

For questions and images please email gary@garysnyderfineart.com