

# Gallery Hosts Sculptor Newcomer

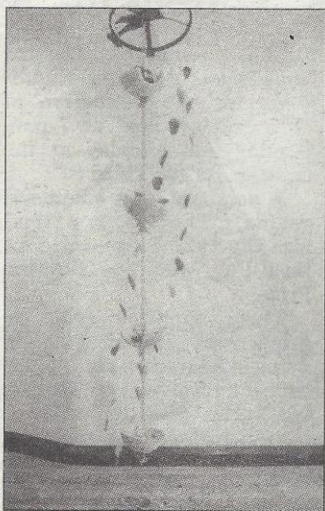
On the First Friday in January, from 6 to 9 p.m., Gallery 152 will present young female sculptor, Brianne M. Dopirak, with her exhibit "Experience."

New to the area, Dopirak grew up in Pittsburgh. She received her bachelor's of fine arts degree in 2001 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dopirak sees herself as shaped by social forces that over time have affected the lives of many Pennsylvanians and Americans.

"I grew up part of a middle-class family in Pittsburgh, during the dark period of the steel mill closings. My family, like so many others, was forced to have their lives turned upside down by the politics of business and the hardships of social class. I spent most of my youth trying to figure out how to bridge the emotions and curiosities I felt with a voice. The journey brought me to art," she said.

Dopirak wrote, "Life is an experience. I find it difficult not



**"CYCLE OF THE FLOWER"**  
by Brianne Dopirak will be on display at Gallery 152.

to notice the details of even the most mundane objects. I walk past a gathering of trees and find it impossible not to touch at

least one just to feel the texture of its skin. In my work, I take these personal experiences and connections and recreate them into a tangible or at least visible form. I concert my process of creation with every detail I experience, even if what you see before you turns out to be as simple as a straight line. I then magnify those details and recreate them with the most unexpected materials. 'Experience' is a collage of my work over the past seven years. It combines feminine issues with historical commentary. The exhibit, just like my work, challenges you and I to find the detail that forces the connection and creates the experience."

Already the recipient of several awards and honors, including the A.J. Schneider Award for Excellence in Studio Arts, Dopirak's work will be at Gallery 152 until the end of January.

More information is available by calling 323-9898.



January  
First  
Friday

**FfATCITY**  
F L Y E R  
fat-city (fat sit'ē) n. 1 american  
slang for a city with a lot to offer.

## Art

**9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.:**  
Annual Holiday Exhibit, B & S  
Gallery

**7 to 9 p.m.:** Photographer  
Steven Godfrey, Coffee and  
Tea Room

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** Annual  
Juried Show, BEAL at City  
Hall

Susquehanna Valley  
Shutterbugs Photography  
Exhibit, Thomas Taber

## Museum

**6 to 9 p.m.:** Fiber artist  
Jeanne Ryersbach and Leslie  
Umstead's sculpture, pottery  
and handpainted items, Gifts  
of Art Gallery

**6 to 9 p.m.:** Sculptor  
Brianne Dopirak, Gallery 152

## Music

**7 to 9 p.m.:** Musician  
Hannah Birgamon, Coffee and  
Tea Room

First Friday / Art Town





## Gifts of Art Hosts Artists On First Friday

By Robin Van Auken  
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Fiber artist Jeane Ryersbach is the Artist of the Month at the Gifts of Art Gallery, 123 W. Fourth St. Joining Ryersbach during the First Friday reception at 6 p.m. Friday is Leslie Umstead, an artist who specializes in mixed media.

Ryersbach, co-owner of Levinson's Formalwear, 366 Market St., South Williamsport, creates wearable art such as jackets, tops, dresses and slacks and caps, as well as creates wall hangings and sculptured fiber baskets.

Her line of wearable art is most often silk or African mud-cloth. Her wall hangings and baskets, however, often take a life of their own after Ryersbach begins tying her "knots" interested primarily in texture and color.

Umstead is a Hughesville artist who creates items for art shows, one in State College and one at the Dover Air Force Base, where her handpainted home decor items and polymer clay art is in demand.

Umstead creates "funky" colorful clay fish. Her nature-themed clay artwork often is adhered to bowls, flower pots and ornaments. She also sculpted and hand-painted a miniature version of the Hughesville town clock, auctioned during that town's sesquicentennial.

More information is available by calling 320-0822 or online at [www.ArtsBuilding.net](http://www.ArtsBuilding.net).



### "At Your Service"

Featuring Advertising from our local business people who offer excellent products and personal service to their customers, following in the tradition, the customer comes first!!

**Don't miss out on this opportunity to target your advertising.**

Starting in January 2003 this page will be published the third Sunday of each month in a color accented page. The Sun-Gazette will offer the advertiser free of charge, the center section to spotlight their business on a rotating basis. What a wonderful way to showcase your business, products and upcoming specials and increase your sales.

**Publication date January 19th - Deadline for ad copy Wednesday prior to publication by 12 Noon.**

Contact Marvette in special promotions for space reservation  
Call Toll Free 1-800-339-0289 or 326-1551 Ext. 2102 • Fax 322-8270

