

## Hang'em High at the Remington Fine Art Gallery

By Karlyn Lynn

Lately, Bandera regulars have noticed a new sign above the shop space next to OST on Main Street. The Remington Fine Art Gallery and Studio is the new home of local award winning artist and author Roger Evans. Originally from Houston, Roger moved to Utopia in 2004 then recently migrated to nearby Pipe Creek. There he shares a home overlooking the beautiful Medina River with high school sweetheart, Jaimie, their dogs of questionable intelligence, as well as a variety of useless cats. Roger credits Jaimie for believing in his art. "I had been turned down by every gallery from Austin to Fredericksburg," lamented Roger. "They loved my work but I had no name recognition. Jaimie saw my frustration and insisted my efforts were as good or better than she had seen in any local gallery. When this space became available, I made the decision to open a private gallery to showcase my work. I named the gallery after my daughter, Remington, who is an art history major at UNT in Denton." Roger added, proudly, "Remi's also a pretty darned good artist."



After taking over the location that long housed the Fickle Pickle, Roger redesigned the interior into a striking but intimate gallery that also doubles as his studio space. I recently caught up with Roger after he opened just in time for Bandera's annual Mardi Gras celebration. "We weren't going to open until March but wanted to take advantage of the crowds that Mardi Gras always seems to attract. So, there were a lot late hours and long weekends getting the space ready."

Getting the space ready included building faux-brick partitions to divide the space into gallery and studio areas.

"The partitions are on wheels so they can be easily reconfigured into a different layout, as needed," he explained. In one front corner, you can find Roger working at his easel on his next piece; across the room is a fireplace and formal sitting area with a comfy love seat and chairs where visitors can relax with a complimentary cup of coffee. "We see a lot of overflow from OST while people wait for a table," noted Roger, "so the traffic at this location is great. People are welcome to watch me paint, if that's something they find interesting, or just kick up their heels and chill or chat."

As we toured the space, Roger showed me the adjoining photographic studio that takes up the other half of the building. "I looked around and, to my knowledge, there isn't a rentable photo studio within 300 square miles. I use this studio to produce the photos that I work from for commissioned portraits but it's available to any local artist or photographer that needs a studio. I have affordable hourly, half day and day rates. The studio is roughly 30' x 30' with high ceilings and includes a full set of cool LED lights, stands, restroom, kitchen area and full service make/up dressing room. All you have to do is bring your camera and your talent."

The Remington Fine Art Gallery and Studio can be reached at 830-328-5085. The gallery is normally open Wednesday through Sunday. "We're usually, but not always, closed on Mondays and Tuesdays," explained Roger. "I may be out on location shooting photos for a commission, so it's best to call before coming by on those days. But basically, if you see the open sign, I'm here painting. So, come on in, have a cup of coffee and relax at the Remington."



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