

578 Main Street, Chatham

DOMONIC BOREFFI has named his new gallery after his grandmother Antonia, who was born in Frossinone, just south of Rome, in 1910. I didn't want to use my own name, he explains, and I found myself thinking of my grandmother, since she would have been 100 this year, and it was the only name I came up with that seemed right.



Boreffi describes his grandmother as a kind person with a great spirit, and he has carefully chosen artists for his gallery who are nice people to deal with, as well as do fine work. It's important, he says, because it's a relationship, a kind of marriage, it's a day-to-day collaboration, and when it works well, it really works. He visualizes a harmonious triangle between the artist, himself, and the collector, and when that relationship is successful, you want to work really hard for the artists and do the best that you can for them.

Last winter he had also read *My Antonia* by Willa Catha and really enjoyed it. It's a pioneer story and reminded me of my grandmother who came here in the 1930s to start a new life, a pioneer herself. It's a brave thing to do, he says.

So is starting your own business. But Boreffi is not nervous, I am just so thrilled I'm finally getting to do this! he says with obvious pleasure. I just felt I had to do it. It's something I'm really excited about and I feel it's the right time to do it. I can't wait for the decorators to finish so I can open the doors!

Boreffi has worked in fine art galleries for the last 12 years, first in San Francisco, then in Boston, where he was a docent at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and finally on the Cape where he worked in a local gallery for nearly six years. He chose Chatham because of the foot traffic on the street and the fact that there's more of a



Paintings by Anne Salas: left to right: "White Zinnia," oil on canvas and 23kt gold leaf; "White Flowers," oil on canvas and 23kt gold leaf; "Summer II," oil on canvas

sense of a year-round community. Having popular high-end resorts in the vicinity such as Chatham Bars Inn and Wequassett Inn doesn't hurt either.

I had a mental wish-list of artists before I started people I liked whose work I admired and it turned into a physical list. Some artists were referred to me, but most I had met over the years. People have been very gracious in recommending artists they knew about and who they thought might fit in the gallery, he says.

These artists include Anne Salas and Ann Hart, who has been winning awards but not showing her work in local galleries so far; she most recently won a prize at the Creative Arts Center in Chatham. Gavin Brooks, a plein air landscape painter, will also be showing her work here, and Boreffi is also exhibiting the work of Gail Turner of Millstone Pottery in Brewster, and Anne Boucher, who has a studio/gallery in Sandwich.

My goal is for the gallery to be a work in progress. I just want to let it evolve. I was lucky enough to learn this business from the gallery owners I have worked with, they were all really good, talented, dedicated people, and I am very grateful to them. I'm so proud to be part of something that brings so much joy to people, which is what art does collectors have often told me how happy a painting they have bought makes them. And I feel so good about that, he says with a broad smile. V

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Watercolors by Ann Hart  
LEFT: "Spring Light"  
ABOVE: "Mauve Morning"