

YOUR

UNCONVENTIONAL

TION

AL GALLERY GUIDE

When you live in an area as creative as we do, art doesn't just live in art galleries and museums. Walking through Downtown Wilmington, you can see everything from sculptures to murals to unique installations—and that's not even inside!

We wanted to let our readers know about all of the unique places that you can find and appreciate our local artists. Whether grabbing a cup of coffee or a good glass of wine, or even getting a new tattoo, there are truly unique places to see amazing work in some pretty unconventional settings.

ARTFUEL

Tattoo Shop & Art Gallery

When you step inside Artfuel, the creative energy practically slaps you in the face! Everywhere you look there is a unique mixture of paintings, sculptures, carvings, and even some taxidermy alongside mounted strips of tracing paper of past tattoos.

Sara Peacock, owner and artist, says that when she looks for art, she often goes to local art shows and the local Art for the Masses events. However, anyone is encouraged to contact her to exhibit his or her art as well.

Not only is the multi-media space a tattoo parlor; the tattoo artists themselves are a bit eclectic. "We have an architect, a graphic artist, and artists with fine art degrees," Sarah explains. "Their art is hung up all around the space."

"We have four art shows a year where we clear out the space and have an art opening with live music and local food. Every event benefits a certain charity that we pick," she continues.

The latest art show in May, and still available to view—for now. Sarah encourages everyone to check out their Facebook regularly to see when events are coming up. Or feel free to stop by, meet the artists, view the amazing artwork and maybe even get a tattoo!

Monday-Saturday 12-7
2165 Wrightsville Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403
910.343.5233
artfuelinc.com

BOTTEGA

art & wine

Bottega is one of the most eclectic spaces in the area, not only because of its amazing blend of art mediums, but also the unique people that it attracts.

"We don't have a certain type of person who comes in here," reflects Addie Wuensch, bartender and artist. "It's just like our art that we show here on the walls: Everyone and everything is welcome."

Bottega is a very active space, with several events going on at any given time. Everything from poetry jams, to live music, to performance art, to body painting. The owner Sandy Perotto works hard to make every kind of artist feel welcome.

Not only do they have several art shows a year, they also do what is called a "closing." This allows everyone who maybe didn't make it to an art opening to make sure they see the pieces before they are taken down.

Artist Gaeten Lowrie of Thrive Studios just celebrated an opening alongside the studio's other ten artists. "Bottega is really supportive of local artists," comments Lowrie. "A lot of artists go off to LA or New York to try and make it big, but a lot come back to Wilmington because it is a great art community."

208 N. Front St.
Wilmington, NC 28401
804.551.7092
bottega.com



PORT CITY JAVA

Cafes, Coffee Roasters & Bakey

Port City Java coffee shops want to be part of our community in more ways than one. Alongside several seasoned local artists and galleries, there are several of our schools and colleges producing new talent all the time, and Port City Java encourages anyone to come show their work!

“Anyone can come in and fill out a form that we have, submit it, and then they’ll be contacted by our main office,” says barista, Melanie. “We get a lot of local artwork and we sell a lot too alongside our coffee!”

A mix of photography and paintings fill the space with character, and with several locations, the result is a multitude of art pieces to view. So go find a Port City Java near you, and enjoy!

portcityjava.com

YOSAKE

Downtown Sushi Lounge

You can’t refer to Yosake without mentioning the bold graphics of the fabulous Japanese Anime-style

artwork by local artist Sullivan Dunn. Several large pieces are strategically placed around the third story space above The Husk (formerly the old Roudabush shop).

When asked about the thought behind the art and the local contest to update it, Nick Gray from Yosake explains their plans to make a change from their trademark décor.

“Showcasing a local artist in our restaurant is a no-brainer,” he says. “Medium-sized communities thrive when we support our own. Whether in buying local foods from North Carolina farms, supporting our neighboring businesses’ endeavors, or in this case, celebrating the richly talented tribe of artists that have chosen to make Wilmington home.”

Yosake encourages any local artist to use their imagination to create a new series that emphasizes its space with a flair for Asian art and culture. A gallery reception hosting all submissions and honoring the finalists will be held at The Balcony on Dock on Friday, July 25th. ■

Sunday-Wednesday, 5-10pm
Thursday-Saturday, 5pm-12am
33 S. Front St., 2nd Floor
Wilmington, NC 28401
910.763.3172
yosake.com