



For browsing or buying, art galleries all over the city offer an intriguing mix of styles. **By Margit Feury** Photographs by Greg Premru

GALLERY HOPPING

FRAME OF REFERENCE: Showcased inside Gallery NAGA on Newbury Street are works by artists working in the Boston and New England regions.



ONCE UPON A TIME, GALLERIES IN BOSTON were thought to cater only to an extremely conservative market. But in recent years, that theory has been proven wrong. Even on Newbury Street, which has more art galleries than any other single location in the region, the modern, abstract and experimental are popping up alongside the traditional. You can certainly find galleries with works by estab-



lished, world-renowned artists—but you'll also find some pushing the envelope with cutting-edge stars.

With almost 40 galleries right on Newbury Street, everyone from the afternoon stroller to the serious buyer is welcome to stop in and take a look. Gallery owners in this city are some of the friendliest and least intimidating you will find anywhere, says Bernie Toale, owner of the Bernard Toale Gallery in

the South End. "Come on in," Toale says. "We are right here to answer any and all questions you might have." So go ahead and take a peek.

Just across the street from the Boston Public Garden is a Newbury Street staple, the Barbara Krakow Gallery. Located on the fifth floor, it seems a world away from the hustle and bustle below. Opened in 1984, this New York-



style gallery now has paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints. The work of up-and-comers is found next to work by artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Rauschenberg and Kiki Smith.

Also specializing in contemporary paintings, and located on the same block, is the Alpha Gallery. Housed in the building with Alpha is the Howard Yezerski Gallery, which shows all types of

media. Much of the work found here is an even spread of local, national and international artists, including John O'Reilly, Rona Pondick, Emily Eveleth and Philip Sirois.

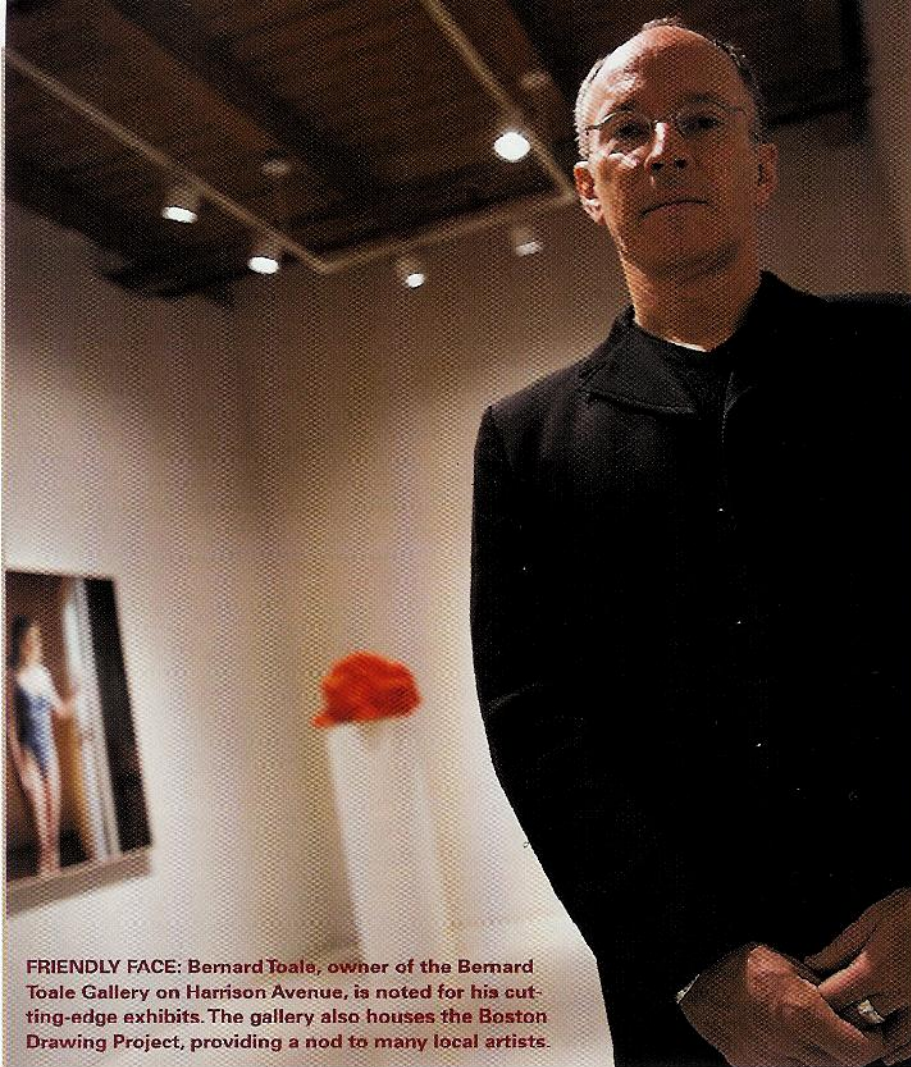
Step inside the neo-Gothic stone church building at 67 Newbury St. for a taste of Gallery NAGA. While you will find the work of highly regarded New England painters, NAGA also specializes



in studio furniture, thanks to a partnership with Clark Gallery. In December, new work in carved and painted wood and in bronze from the preeminent American studio furniture-maker Judy Kensley McKie will be on exhibit. Also not to be missed at NAGA is Harriet Casdin-Silver's holography.

At the Pucker Gallery, you'll find a large eclectic collection of contemporary art. In December, Pucker will feature an





FRIENDLY FACE: Bernard Toale, owner of the Bernard Toale Gallery on Harrison Avenue, is noted for his cutting-edge exhibits. The gallery also houses the Boston Drawing Project, providing a nod to many local artists.

exhibit of the work of Mallory Lake. She may be a Vermont resident, but her pastels are inspired by the Tuscan landscape. In January, check out the pottery of Phil Rogers and in February, look for the ink-and-acrylic drawings of Shigeru Matsuzaki. Nearby is the Nielsen Gallery, the largest in Back Bay.

When it comes to classic, look no further than Vose Galleries of Boston, Inc., which is the oldest family-owned gallery in the country, opened in 1841. The 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century American paintings come from the Boston and Hudson River Schools and elsewhere.

While the concentration of galleries is on Newbury Street, it is certainly not all that this city's art world has to offer. Reminiscent of SoHo 30 years ago, Boston's burgeoning SoWa (South of

Washington Street) is becoming a major art community. One real mover and shaker here is the Bernard Toale Gallery. A transplant from Newbury Street, this gallery is worth the walk over to the edge of the South End. Much of the work displayed, which is rotated monthly, is on the edge itself. Layered drawings from ICA prizewinner Ambreen Butt and the sculptures of Roxy Paine can be viewed. The gallery also houses the Boston Drawing Project, which displays drawings (and much more) by about 170 talented artists.

Also in SoWa is the Clifford-Smith Gallery, which is aimed at a younger, hipper audience and located right above Bernard Toale. The sprawling space of the Genovese/Sullivan Gallery allows for the display of all sorts of idiosyncratic art.

Where to Find It

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., 617-536-4465

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 617-262-4490

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 617-482-2477

Carpenter Center
24 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-495-3251

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Fl., 617-695-0255

The Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., 617-522-0000

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., 617-267-9060

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., 617-426-9738

Howard Yezerksi Gallery
14 Newbury St., 617-262-0550

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge, 617-253-4680

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., 617-426-0005

Mobius
354 Congress St., 617-542-7416

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., 617-266-4835

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., 617-236-4497

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., 617-267-9473

Sert Gallery
24 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-495-3251

Space 12
12 Union Park St., 617-423-9760

Vose Galleries of Boston, Inc.
238 Newbury St., 617-536-6176

There are plenty of other notable spots worth a visit. The Mills Gallery in the Boston Center for the Arts features contemporary local art. Fort Point Channel provides workspace for many artists and is home to Mobius, an artist-run nonprofit organization. The Gallery @ Green Street is located conveniently in the Green Street MBTA station.

Across the river in Cambridge, the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard hosts exhibits by visiting faculty members. The Sert Gallery at Harvard is hot right now, with its selection of contemporary works. And the I.M. Pei-designed building housing the List Visual Arts Center, on the MIT campus, is a piece of art on its own.

■ Turn to page 46 for a detailed lineup of shopping listings.