

# Space 39

*Blending and contrasting styles offers visitors a new perspective on art*



**Top: Space 39 gallery owner Terry Tincher doing what he does best... displaying art. Bottom: The wide range of art mediums and styles makes Space 39 an art lover's haven.**

by Ann Marie O'Phelan

Stroll through Patio de Leon in historic downtown Fort Myers and you may just feel like you're somewhere in Europe. Tall brick buildings with metal balconies overlook an inviting plaza, complete with fountain. Here you'll find a new art gallery, Space 39, that specializes in modern and contemporary themes with an eye on conceptual works of art.

Space 39 takes part of its name from its street address: 39 Patio de Leon. Calling it a "space" instead of a "gallery" came from a desire to not give visitors any preconceived notions about what

they might find inside. "The name came to us sort of conceptually, as a place we didn't necessarily want to label as a gallery," says Robert Fontaine, who works as the director of Space 39, which is owned by Terry Tincher.

While many galleries in Southwest Florida line their walls with artwork in tropical colors like pinks, corals, turquoises, and purples, Space 39 offers something completely and refreshingly different. On the walls you'll find everything from the detailed works of Pat Collins, Robert Rauschenberg, and Salvador Dali, alongside the more mod-

ern styles of Andy Warhol, Jeffery Scott Lewis, and Roy Lichtenstein. All are works that were carefully chosen by Robert Fontaine.

The original vision for the space was to bring new artistic voices of the present and hang them on the same walls as some of the icons of the past. That's why Salvador Dali's surrealist works are displayed next to Andy Warhol's modern works, Pat Collins's political works with graffiti are displayed next to Roy Lichtenstein's comic book-style paintings, while Keith Haring's pop art hangs next to Clyde Singer's regionalist pieces.



**The entrance to Space 39 is quite inviting. Tincher is pleased to show off its unique architecture and artistic details.**

They are all pieces of art that you wouldn't expect to find in the same room, yet here they are on the brick and mortar walls of Space 39, blending together perfectly.

Additionally, Space 39 offers exhibitions that aren't what you would call typical to the area. For instance, a recent exhibit, "The Unconscious Mind: Surrealism and Its Legacy," featured works by the great surrealist artists Salvador Dali and Man Ray as well as those of local and international artists whose work is considered surrealistic. An earlier exhibit focused on three-dimensional works by local and national sculptors James Ferrari, James DiGiorgio, and Jonas Stürner. And not long ago, the walls were covered in works by Marilyn

Manson, lead singer of a heavy metal band who is also a contemporary watercolorist. Exhibits like these are more like what you would expect to find in New York, Los Angeles, or Paris, but here they are, right in downtown Fort Myers.

This May marks the first anniversary of Space 39. "We are planning a gallery exhibit that will be unlike anything we've done yet—it will be huge," says Fontaine.

No doubt it will also be unlike anything Fort Myers has ever seen before as well.

*Space 39, 39 Patio de Leon, Fort Myers, 239-690-0004, robert@spacethirty-nine.com, www.spacethirtynine.com*

*Ann Marie O'Phelan is a contributing writer for several publications in Southwest Florida, where she resides with her son.*

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