



Renaissance Fine Arts

The business, started 28 years ago by Joanie Young, is now run by her daughters, Merritt Miller and Rachel Rubin. It is a decidedly commercial enterprise—you'll rarely find exhibitions or openings here—but over the years it has become the go-to gallery for everyone from interior designers and architects to private and institutional collectors in search of original works by local, nationally known, and international artists. In addition to those master works, for example, Renaissance sells works by established locals Alice Pritchard, Vitali Miagkov, and Eric Albrecht and nationally known artists like Marshall Noice and Charles Dwyer. Styles range from traditional to contemporary.

And while higher-end works can go for more, the bulk of what's sold here ranges from \$5,000 to \$15,000, says Miller. All of the works are owned by Renaissance, rather than sold on consignment. "I believe in the artist that I'm supporting so I think that says something to the client," says Miller. In addition to what's on the walls, Renaissance also has a large inventory of works not shown.

And if it doesn't have what you're looking for? "If don't have it, I can look for it," says Miller, who offers free in-home consultations for would-be buyers.

1848 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, 410-484-8900, renaissancefinearts.com.

CRYSTAL MOLL GALLERY

At the Crystal Moll's gallery, the entrance on one real-life street—Charles—leads to dozens

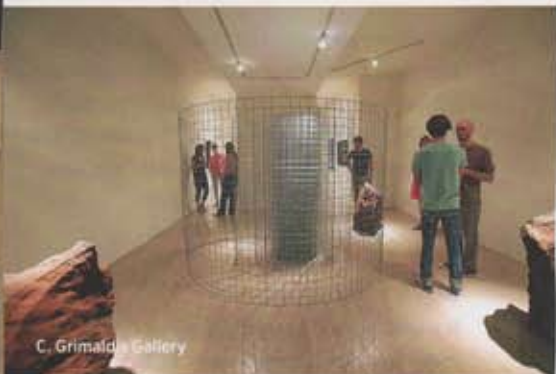
of other painted ones. On the walls, delicately rendered street scenes—mostly from Baltimore—come to life. Some are the oil paintings and prints of Moll, who, for 23 years, has been painting *en plein air* and favors urban landscapes. Others come from the *plein air* artists Moll represents, some of whom paint outside the city.

Moll, a full-time artist, opened the gallery in December 2009. "The space became available, so I just decided to take advantage of it and try it for a bit," she says. A short-term agreement with her landlord was followed by a second short-term lease and then a year-long agreement. Business has been good, and Moll has recently signed a longer-term lease.

Works range from prints under \$100 to paintings that fetch \$9,000. And while many of Moll's buyers are homeowners coming in "for a specific piece to fill a space," more "just come in and find something they really like and go home and find a space for it," she says. 1030 S. Charles St., 410-952-2843, crystalmollgallery.com.

C. GRIMALDIS GALLERY

If there's one name that consistently comes up when Baltimoreans talk about buying art, it's the C. Grimaldis Gallery, a Baltimore mainstay since 1977. Founded by veteran dealer Constantine Grimaldis, the gallery, which may be the last of Baltimore's traditional commercial art galleries, specializes in post-World War II American and European art, with an emphasis on contemporary sculpture.



C. Grimaldis Gallery

And while Grimaldis made a name for himself by bringing big names to his gallery—Alice Neel, John Waters, Grace Hartigan, Willem de Kooning, Elaine de Kooning, and Anthony Caro among them—he also features local rising stars. One example: MICA grad Chul-Hyun Ahn, an artist whose exploration of light and illusion has turned an early start with Grimaldis into an international run.

Featured artists also get a boost from the gallery's increased presence at art fairs around the country, "as a way to find new clients and put our artists into international collections," says gallery manager MacKenzie Peck.

If you're visiting and you don't see something you like, don't panic. The gallery, housed in a long and narrow Mt. Vernon row house, has limited space and uses storage space elsewhere. (Some of Grimaldis's featured artists create large works that are more likely to find a home in front of a public building rather than, say, in your foyer.) Grimaldis also hosts regular exhibitions—they usually run for six weeks—and artist talks, both of which can be a boon for anyone who enjoys exploring art as much as buying it. If you need your hand held a little, the gallery offers consultations and even studio visits aimed at finding a work that fits your needs—and budget—even if you're not quite sure what you're looking for. Or, as is the case with all the galleries we found, you can just browse. (Grimaldis refers to your kind as "tire-kickers.")

523 N. Charles St., 410-539-1080, cgrimaldisgallery.com.

STEVEN SCOTT GALLERY

In business since 1988, over the years, gallerist Steven Scott has ventured from his former