

Agriculture

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beat-up old tractor there that's seen a bunch of years of use," Kenney said.

Kenney, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and a former president of the Providence Art Club, said his work tends towards comfort and warmth, whether he is painting a lobster roll, a hot dog and a beer, or a tractor at dusk.

"My paintings are all about comfort and giving people a sense of peace when they see the artwork in the gallery or hopefully on the walls in their house," he said.

Antonia Tyz Peeples, a Lebanon, Connecticut, painter who has shown with Charlestown Gallery for roughly 30 years, took a different approach, filling her canvases with oversized, closely cropped fruit. Her oil painting of blueberries, which presents them larger — and juicier — than life, captures droplets of water and reflected light on the

fruit's blue skin.

"I like to see the colors — and especially blueberries — because there's so much going on when you touch them, and then I put a little water drops on them and see what that does," Peeples said. "I'm having a lot of fun doing them."

Peeples, who works almost exclusively in oil, also has an oversized painting of eggs and a piece depicting pomegranate seeds in the show, along with a new painting of honeycomb and honeybees. She said working at such a large scale with groups of items has become a signature style she did not recognize until recently.

"I didn't realize how much I like multiples," she said. "I do multiples of stuff over and over, whether it's the fish or the blueberries or pomegranates or honeycomb."

Lorraine Hynes, a Cumberland painter who works in oil and paints from life, is showing five paintings and six floral designs in the exhibition, including a still life called "Pears Up" and a larger 30 inch by 30 inch

painting of cherries in a silver container that she identified as one of her favorite pieces to date.

Hynes said she often sources her subjects directly from local farms and supermarkets, choosing fruit for its color, shape, and ultimate paintability.

"I live in Cumberland, close to some farms," she said. "I get my pears from there. I go to supermarkets — I look at the color, I look at the shapes — and that's how I would actually do my setup and everything."

Hynes said the timing of the show feels especially fitting given renewed public interest in local food sources.

"People are gravitating to the farmer's markets now," she said. "It's put such a positive focus on them. I think the timing for the gallery to be doing this is really interesting, and I can't wait to see all the different artists and what they brought in as it relates to a farmer's market."

The exhibition's roster also includes several other talented artists, each bringing a distinct interpretation of the market

theme.

For Kenney, that variety is part of what makes the show worth seeing in person.

"The best part about the arts is everyone brings their own take to something, whether it's portraiture or landscapes or still lifes," he said. "You're going to see probably five, 10 different versions of tomatoes, and that's fantastic."

Howard invites guests to visit and collect what they enjoy, just as they would at a weekend market.

"See what has inspired the artists and how they translate the 'Farmers Market' theme in their work. Stroll through the market with us as we memorialize these local treasures created in their studios, held in our gallery and waiting for you to take home."

Charlestown Gallery is open to the public Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment. "Farmers Market" runs through Oct. 12. For more information, contact the gallery at (401) 364-0120 or CharlestownGallery@cox.net.