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Vol. 120, No. 341 || DentonRC.com || Denton, Texas

**BUSINESS**



Margarete Neale opened the Art Haven Gallery Home in October.

Juan Betancourt/DRC

# Local artists' work covers the walls of this short-term rental

**By Juan Betancourt**  
 Staff Writer

Denton is home to a short-term rental that also serves as an art gallery featuring local talent.

Artwork can be found in the bathroom, around the kitchen and inside a closet, and QR codes giving guests more information about the artists are also available.

The short-term rental house, located at 1721 W. Oak St., was also recently used as a production set for B22 Films, a Texas-based film production company.

Retired Denton ISD librarian Margarete Neale wanted to showcase local artists and give guests a better experience staying at the short-term rental.

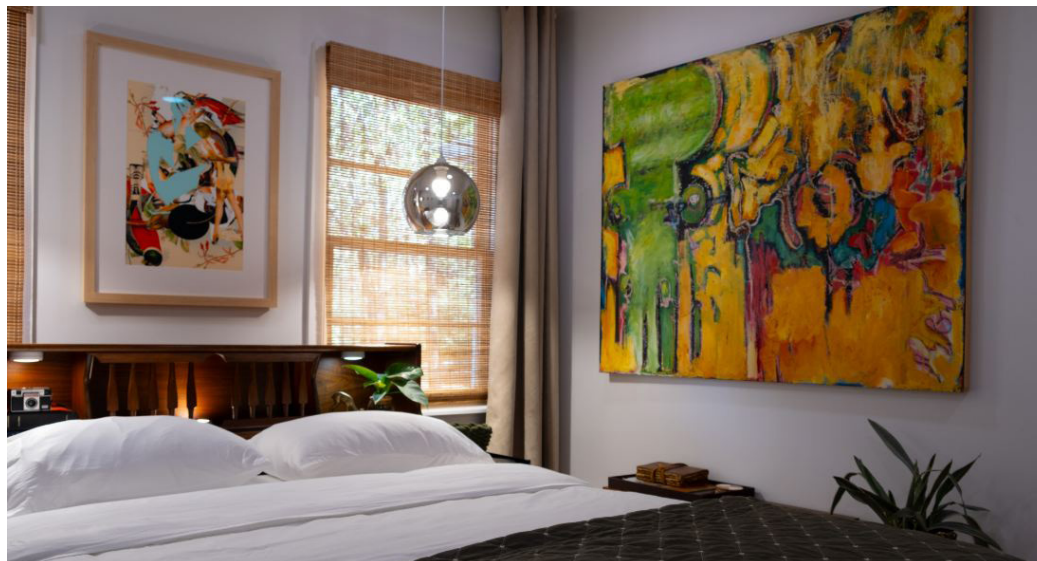
"I'm trying to make it not just a stay but truly an experience," Neale said.

She said the gallery view isn't just for short-term visitors. Anyone can view it by appointment via email or website when the gallery isn't booked.

Art Haven Gallery opened in October 2023 after being announced the previous August. The opening exhibition, featuring local and North Texas artists, occurred in February of this year.

The art pieces will be rotated to showcase more local art.

"I have several friends that are artists and know artists in the community and I thought, you know, it'd be



A collection of art from local artists can be found around the short-term rental house.

Courtesy/Art Haven Gallery Home

kind of incredible to merge the two [short-term rental and gallery]," Neale said.

Opening the short-term rental gallery was special to Neale because she collaborated with her former student Beth Brown, now an interior designer, to design the home.

Neale taught Brown during a studio art class at Hebron High School in the early 2000s.

They reconnected after Neale placed a bid on a 1970s furniture piece Brown was selling.

"That felt incredibly awesome [collaborating with Brown]," Neale said. "She would say things [about art techniques], and I was, 'Oh my gosh, did you learn that in my class?'"

Neale wanted to ensure

the home interior had good aesthetics and purchased vintage furniture to accommodate her vision.

Every piece of furniture she purchased had a background story. Neale said she would be willing to share the story to those who booked a gallery visit.

Even the home has a history since Neale and her family resided in it from 2000-2004, after which it essentially became a long-term rental.

A long-term plan is to convert the backyard into a sculpture garden and have an outside public library in the front yard.

"We can put up a piece of art, take one away, or you can replace it," Neale said. "It's very interactive."

**B22 Films**

Neale said she received a message from the film production company asking if she would allow it to film inside the short-term rental.

The Texas-based company filmed *Lone Star Shark 2*, a movie about a kayaker stalked by a shark on a Texas lake.

The production filmed in late June and is expected to return in late July to shoot *Lone Star Shark 3*, a movie about the FBI being called to a lake in Texas to investigate shark attacks.

"We enjoyed filming the interior for *Lone Star Shark 2*," the production company wrote in a guest book. "Coming soon in a 3-pack DVD set."

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