

Trillium plans 5th anniversary celebration March 2

EAST LANSING — Trillium Gallery, 207 E. Grand River in East Lansing is five years old this spring. March 2, during First Sunday Gallery Walk, there will be a celebration. Four of the original artists who took the risk on an untried gallery returned with work made especially for this show.

Natalia Andreeva, a classically trained oil painter, will be bringing new work from Chicago. When Andreeva met Kalli, she was newly arrived from Siberia, Russia. She lived in Lansing for over six years and came to regard it as her American birthplace. People here will remember her shows at Trillium and her booth in the East Lansing Art Festival where she won the People's Choice Award. She has lived in Chicago for the past year and reports that her new home brings out new ideas and a new style. Natalia will be present at the opening.

"Kalli and Trillium Gallery mean a lot to me," said Andreeva. "In particular it was Kalli's belief in my talent that helped me to start my artists' career in the United States. With a happy smile I recall that day when I first knocked on the door at Trillium Gallery holding a couple of my tiny watercolors.

"Kalli received me with great interest, enthusiasm and excitement that inspired me for



Courtesy photo

MUSE — This oil painting by Russian artist Natalia Andreeva will be on display at Trillium Gallery.

many years. My work with Trillium Gallery continues to this day. Kalli and her gallery became a part of my life. As my career develops and the names of prestige and upscale galleries appear in my resume it always gives me pride and pleasure to write in the top "represented by Trillium Gallery."

Todd Mack, formerly of North Lansing, will also be returning from his new home in Chicago, where he has a new store, **fourSided**. He will be entering three pieces using collage and found objects. He's thinking of using watch parts in all of them and creating spaces for people to insert their own pictures.

"I'm doing this because I think anniversaries are more of a personal thing," said Mack. Weather permitting, he will come for the celebration as well.

"Trillium, to me, has always been a place where so many different good things come together harmoniously. You have Kalli, the life force of the gallery, with her always, perpetual, unceasing kindness," said Mack. "A big key to successful anything is good communication, which she possesses. Secondly, you have great art and objects. Kalli has always given 'not so established' artists a chance.

"She always invited me to have things there, and I've enjoyed so many other artists that she chose to showcase. I'm sure all the usual suspects will be there again for this show. I can't believe it's been five years!" said Mack.

Nancy McRay of East Lansing and a well-known local artist, is working on a special piece for the show. It is planned to be a double-weave pick-up diptych, each panel around 28" by 28". She is using inching hexagrams that relate to the theme of "Anniversary." The numbers involved will reflect that this is Trillium's fifth anniversary, and McRay's 25th wedding anniversary year.

"Trillium Gallery is synonymous in my mind

with Kalli Halpern," MacRay said. Over the past five years Kalli has been a friend and a mentor, not only giving me an outlet for my work, but encouraging me to take risks and grow as an artist and business person. Her warm welcome every time I enter the gallery brightens my day."

Carolyn Szeremet, now of Hebron, Kentucky, is sending two new art quilts made for this show. The thing that she loves most about quilts is color. Carolyn dyes her own fabric to get just the right colors. She considers that single most important factor in her artistic growth. Her art quilts are cut freely using a rotary cutter and "on the fly" as it was.

"I am never exactly

sure what I am going to end up with until I get going and the piece starts to evolve and take shape," Szeremet said. She is sending two new pieces: **Color Bars** and **Nine/Eleven Never Forget**.

"Trillium gave me an opportunity to show and sell my art quilts. It is a great venue for the local artist to get his/her work out to the public," said Szeremet. "Kalli, the gallery's owner, is so receptive to new work and eager to share it with her clients, even if only to share the visual experience of new work and not necessarily sell. Exhibiting at Trillium gave me the confidence I needed to pursue other competitions and arenas and subsequently had the success that I was hoping for."

Owner Kalli Halpern is also showing some new artworks for the anniversary show. She will be showing drawings and assemblages.

"Trillium means my life! I have funneled most of my creativity into this gallery," said Halpern. "It is my artwork. Art needs to be touched, seen and held. And people need place to come, linger, touch and relate to art. I've tried to create a place where that can happen. We're sort of like the corner store when people went to get their dry goods and their news."

The five-year celebration will begin March 2 with a show of the four original artists who trusted Kalli's vision and loaned her work for the new gallery.