

# Gallery 14

## *Photography*

14 Mercer Street,  
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609-333-8511

**Information:** [www.photogallery14.com](http://www.photogallery14.com)

**E-mail:** [galleryfourteen@yahoo.com](mailto:galleryfourteen@yahoo.com)

**Gallery hours:** Sats. & Suns. 12-5 and by Appointment

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***For Immediate Release***

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## **Gallery 14 January Exhibits**

**January 6 – February 18**

Reception Friday January 6, 6– 8:30 PM

Meet the Photographers Sunday, January 8, 1-3 PM

Gallery 14 is pleased to present an exhibit by David Miller featuring his long term project photographing the barbershop and beauty parlor advertising portraits in a colorful interpretation of these works.

### **Barbershop and Beauty Parlor Paintings of Ghana and Mali,**

David H. Miller

Barbershops and beauty parlors are among the most visible small businesses in West Africa. It takes little capital to start one of these as you only have to buy some scissors and clippers (manual or electric), tap an electric line if you need electricity, and find a place to open. Often this is a relatively simply built shed about big enough for a chair for the customer (and a folding chair will often do). Then it's a question of making sure the customers know you're there.

Many barbershops are decorated in striking colors to draw attention to them. This may take the form of an American flag, quite popular in Ghana which has a major population in New York City, for example, or another striking design which will catch the customers' eye.



*Barbershop near Kumasi, Ghana*

But more important are the portrayals of the hairstyles, the portraits painted on wood and wall, showing what the barber can produce, a visual attraction that uses local artistic talent to attract customers.

In two trips to Ghana in the past 5 years, and a recent one to Mali David Miller photographed these portraits, capturing and interpreting the wide variety of styles and abilities of the local and mostly anonymous painters who created these. Some of them are quite realistic; leading you to believe that there was a live model available. A few others are much more abstract and schematic, and the abilities of the artists painting these vary significantly.

These photographs attempt to interpret, capture and preserve the folk art that is found in these barbershop signs. It was clear on the most recent trip to Ghana that more commercially produced posters are now frequently being used particularly in the capital, Accra, and that this artistic form has a finite life span that is coming to an end. In the provinces, which are significantly poorer than the capital cities in both Ghana and Mali, this art form will continue a bit longer, but hand painted advertising is distinctly on the wane. These photographs capture an art form that is distinctive in time, place and function, one that is already disappearing.

### ***In the Jay Goodkind Room***

The members of Gallery 14 are starting the New Year with a group show of their recent work.

**Gallery 14** is a cooperative photography gallery now in its 10<sup>th</sup> season. It was established in 2001 by a small group of photographers as a center for regional photographers, a place where photographers can come to meet their public and their peers and exhibit their work, many for the first time. This is a gallery where experimentation is encouraged, and where photographers can grow into their own artistic selves by exchanging ideas, by experimentation and by having their peers respond to their experiments.

The Gallery is run by its members who manage, create and exhibit at the gallery along with guest photographers of local and international reputation. Its members encourage guest photographers to exhibit developing projects, based on a portfolio review. Gallery 14 is also the site of meetings of local photographers who share their work and invite discussion and criticism to increase their understanding of their own and others' photographic work.

For further information about membership please contact the Gallery or visit during exhibit hours to talk to one of the members.

The Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 5 PM and by appointment.

You can join the Gallery mailing list at [www.photogallery14.com](http://www.photogallery14.com).

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