



PARLOR GALLERY'S JILL RICCI (RIGHT) WITH RED BANK DESIGN CENTER'S AMY MANOR

ASBURY GALLERIST ALSO ART CONSULTANT AND CURATOR AT RED BANK DESIGN CENTER

RED BANK — It doesn't get much better for triCity than when Asbury Park and Red Bank link up with creative activity.

Here's a great example: Jill Ricci, co-owner of Asbury Park's Parlor art gallery with Jenn Hampton, has set up a Parlor Gallery location in Red Bank.

It's in the Red Bank Design Center (RBDC), where another talented creative — Amy Manor — has built a center for interior design on Broad Street. Ricci is there as an art consultant and curator of art in the RBDC showrooms.

And that gives Parlor Gallery a whole new opportunity to show and sell the works of the artists in their Asbury gallery, as well as others in their wide network. That's important! You can't have art thrive in your region unless artists can make a living off it. The alliance between Parlor and the Red Bank Design Center is in furtherance of that.

Parlor Gallery is often in these pages for the high-profile role it's played in Asbury Park since opening in 2009. Parlor's Jenn Hampton has basically become the public face of arts leaders in the city. (That face was on our front page last week, in fact!) Meanwhile, Parlor's Jill Ricci had a legendary Asbury gallery on the boardwalk called Exhibit A, even before Parlor. She is also one of the most prominent arts and culture leaders in the city.

Now Ricci gets to further that vibe up in Red Bank, and spread the Parlor Gallery artists to the homes of the clients at RBDC. Through her years in the Asbury art world, Ricci has worked with a ton of artists.

"Right now, I'm bringing in a lot of art from our show that just closed," Ricci said. "Sometimes I'll bring in art we never had at Parlor. We show a lot of local Asbury artists (in Red Bank), like Robert Melee and Porkchop, as well

as other area artists. It's a pretty signature type of art we show."

Ricci is also a fan of Red Bank — and we hope she finds time in her schedule to get more involved in the arts and culture there, since it furthers the link between Red Bank and Asbury Park. In fact, she almost moved to Red Bank instead of Asbury when she relocated from Chicago 20 years ago.

RBDC's founder, Amy Manor, said it's important to have Ricci at the Design Center dedicated to the art, the artists and the clients.

"We're not the experts in art," Manor said. "We just like to make that introduction to Jill so she can do her thing with the client."

Manor values Ricci's experience guiding artists.

"I wanted to work through Parlor Gallery because they know how to properly guide the artist," she said. "I've been approached by artists who want to put their art here and I hand them off to Jill. She not only consults with the client, but she's an advocate for the artist. She really helps (the clients) to understand their value. It is an investment. You need someone who'll carefully take care of that investment."

Want to learn more? Manor and Ricci are co-hosting an Art and Design Event, Wednesday, October, 25 from 5-8 pm which is free and open to the public. The event will celebrate the newly designed RBDC showroom galleries, accompanied by contemporary art. Featured Artists from Parlor Gallery: Robert Melee, Cindy Press Hans Neleman, Gavin Benjamin, Andrew Fish, Natalie Christensen, Billy Ludwig, Ray Geary, Eduardo Terranova, Scott Troxel, and Sylvia Hommert. Red Bank Design Center is at 147 Broad Street.