

## BUSINESS NEWS

# Local Store To Open Creative Gallery

**W**it & whim, Port Washington's award-winning, life and style shop with a twist, is opening the waterfront town's first year-round marketplace. The Creative Gallery, as it has been named, features a wide variety of the finest handmade merchandise, created by local designers. Reaching beyond the confines of a pop-up or weekend fair, customers will have the opportunity to shop one-of-a-kind creations all year.

Located at 6 Carlton Ave., wit & whim is a treasure trove of carefully curated unique, vintage modern and handmade gifts at every price point. An added twist, each month wit & whim gives back to a different organization. Now in its sixth year, the shop has become a destination for people all over Long Island, as well as Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

"In addition to our local customers, we have shoppers who stop in whenever they are in town from England and Japan," said Jacquelyn Conte, co-owner.

Colorful flags are strung across the ceiling in the back portion of the shop



to denote the location of The Gallery space.

"We wanted to keep an open flow throughout the shop, but felt it was also important for our artists to have their own dwellings," explained

co-owner Krissy Harper.

The concept for the Creative Gallery was born in an effort to contribute to the already artistic energy flowing throughout the shop. The space also gives seasoned makers a chance to branch out to new customers, while up-and-coming artists will gain exposure they may not ordinarily have.

"We strive to be a shop that is unique and on the cutting edge," said Conte.

The space features an eclectic mix of jewelry, soy candles, vegan makeup, pebble art, organic dog treats and more.

"Our passion to feature handmade runs deep, as Jacquelyn and I are makers ourselves," said Harper.

While the space serves as a unique shopping experience, it has also allowed the fellow artists to network

and connect.

"Wit & whim provides us local artists with a unique portal to reach the local community and participate in the celebration of the unique, visual and artistic language of each piece nestled within its walls," Maria Salazar, artist, Of Art & Soul, said. "I'm very honored to be part of this hidden gem in Port."

"I am so thrilled to be a part of the wit & whim creative gallery," said Tracey DiNapoli, Creator D.O.G.G. Grub. "It has given me an opportunity to showcase my homemade dog treats in a wonderful, pet friendly town. I love that I have the creative authority to bring in new items each month and arrange my shelf however I wish. The positive feedback helps me gauge what items to keep making and gives me creative ideas on new treats to test out. I am truly blessed for this opportunity."

In a world of cardboard delivery boxes and computer screens, wit & whim is offering a tactile, fun, shopping experience. Smell the fragrant candles, try on the rainbow of jewelry, run your hand over the butter soft leather of a bag, give your pup a taste of a handmade dog treat. Experience the magic that is wit & whim.

Harper and Conte announced a grand opening party to celebrate the shop's new addition, to be held on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All are invited to join for food, refreshments, music and a unique shopping experience.

For more information, contact Harper at 516-944-9200 or witandwhim@gmail.com.

—Submitted by wit & whim

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## Town Brief

Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth, the town board members and the town's planning department will be presenting a draft plan of a Cultural Master Plan on Wednesday, June 12, at 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Clinton G. Martin Park meeting room, 1601 Marcus Ave. in New Hyde Park.

The draft plan is the result of the town working with planning and urban design firm CivicMoxie to help create an all-encompassing Cultural Master Plan that will highlight the arts, culture, restaurants and commerce offerings of North

Hempstead and the 31 villages within its borders.

The proposed plan includes recommendations for organizational support for culture and commerce, as well as a website that would serve as a "one stop shopping resource" highlighting the arts, culture dining and commerce offerings in the town.

Town officials are eager to involve the public in the process, to hear suggestions and take questions. The public is encouraged to attend.

To reserve a spot at this free presentation, register at the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cultural-master-plan-presentation-tickets-123456789>