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## **Visual Arts Review: Outscapes and inscapes: Two Edgewater Gallery exhibits**

By Victoria Crain

Arts Correspondent

Each month, Edgewater Gallery features two artists among the many who show their work there. During September, they are highlighting the paintings of Dennis Sheehan and Anna Dibble.

Edgewater Gallery now has two exhibition spaces, the newest being right on Middlebury green, at 6 Merchants Row. The space is familiar to many, but if you haven't been there for a while, you are in for a surprise. It's been transformed.

Lofty, pristine and up-to-date, the interior and its fixtures enhance visitors' ability to travel through its elegant offerings, which range from fine furniture, glass and ceramic objects to paintings.

It's in this new space that visitors will find the landscape paintings of Dennis Sheehan. They are luscious and moody, and depict moments during which light and shadow enlarge the effects of one another.

Sheehan states, "My goal is to have the painting emanate light, rather than just be a surface that records the reflection of light."

From my point of view, his goal is achieved. And if you love green, well then, the room at Edgewater on the Green occupied by Sheehan's works is a place to visit.

Blue, on the other hand, is the province of Janice Sanders, who paints bright land and seascapes with a blue so dazzling and flat, it is transfixing. In fact, just now Edgewater on the Green is full of landscape paintings from these two and other artists. The many styles of depicting our world contrast and complement each other.

Helen Shulman's paintings diverge. They are abstract and engage the viewer differently. Seeing her work, a person might wonder what the numbers running down the side mean, or why a nice strip of copper is nailed on a surface.

I liked thinking about how the copper might change over time.

Of her painting, she says, "I want it to have a beautiful enough skin to invite

people to linger and an interesting enough interior to retain their attention.”

A more unusual exhibit awaits visitors at the original Edgewater Gallery at 1 Mill St. overlooking Otter Creek. It's a short walk and worth the trip. This month, the quirky paintings of Anna Dibble are featured.

These works are personal and appealing. They have a primitive quality — or perhaps it's innocence. They are not fettered by linear perspective or a necessity to be pithy. They are genuine without being realistic: A man and a woman face each other in one but are back to back in another, and always with their dogs. These people sit at familiar tables; but sometimes, something magical or dreamlike floats above them.

I wish I could describe how honest these little paintings are, and how reflective of the everydayness of life. Dibble writes of about her work as “a search, a walkabout, the beginning of the odyssey that's the last slice of my life.”

That's pretty good; but even better, is a look at what she paints.

Take some time to look at remarkable art and objects at the Edgewater Galleries in Middlebury. And a reminder: The Sheehan and Dibble exhibits are a September event.

## Edgewater Galleries

Edgewater Galleries, at 6 Merchants Row and 1 Mill St. in Middlebury, are open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday and Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; for information, call 802-989-7419 and 802-458-0098, or go online to [www.edgewatergallery-vt.com](http://www.edgewatergallery-vt.com).

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