

TOWN FOCUS: OCEANSIDE

Picture-perfect? Try the basement gallery

By Linda McIntosh
COMMUNITY NEWS WRITER

August 19, 2006

OCEANSIDE – They call the gallery “industrial chic.” Open ducts and black chain-link fencing suspended from panels provide the backdrop for a display of dozens of photographs by area artists.

Oceanside Photo and Telescope opened the 3,000-square-foot basement gallery under its store on Mission Avenue in downtown Oceanside in July.

The space features free-standing walls and gallery lighting to regularly showcase up to 100 photographs by 20 artists.

“You can see art across the room. It’s pretty cool space,” said Craig Weatherwax, the store’s owner.

The gallery kicks off its first featured artist exhibit Sept. 2, with photographer Eric Blackhurst, who also is the store’s general manager.

Blackhurst will show several shots of total solar eclipses taken earlier this year in Turkey, along with shots of distant galaxies and travel photos from several continents.

“This is a relatively unique place – a high-end gallery smack in the middle of downtown that works with local artists,” Blackhurst said.

Blackhurst, who has a bachelor’s degree in industrial scientific imaging from the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, has shared tips about astrophotography on World Talk Radio.

“As a photographer, you control what the viewer is going to witness, and that can give a new perspective,” Blackhurst said.

“The photo exhibits are about seeing things in a new way.”

Exhibitors include Vince Baworouski and David King, both college photography instructors, and Grant Brittain, founder and editor of *The Skateboard Mag*; Katherine Sanchez, Jack Iskin and award-winning photographers from around San Diego County.

“The exhibit will be rolling and evolving as artists put up new work,” Blackhurst said.

For Brendan Klein, one of the exhibitors, his ties to the store go back to when he bought his first camera there as a boy.

Since then his photos have appeared in such magazines as *Transworld Skateboarding* and *The Skateboard Mag*.



CHARLIE NEUMAN / Union-Tribune
Jessica Fairchild, an employee at Oceanside Photo and Telescope Underground Gallery, checked the placement of photos in an exhibit by local photographers.

“I'm happy when people remember my shots,” Klein said.

Photographers can exhibit their work in the gallery for a small monthly fee. The pieces on display are for sale; admission to the gallery is free.

“There's a community aspect to the gallery. The artists are right here and it's all created in Southern California,” Blackhurst said.

For information about the gallery, call (760) 722-3348.

[»Next Story»](#)

Find this article at:

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060819/news_m1m19tfoside.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.