

New exhibit celebrates island's female artists

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

GRAND MANAN – The Grand Manan Island Art Gallery will welcome Donna Nixon and the Group of 8 painters with an opening reception at 7 p.m. Saturday.

This show, which will remain at the gallery till June 25, celebrates female artists of Grand Manan. Donna Moses Nixon was born and raised in North Head on Grand Manan.

Growing up in the 1950s, a thriving group of artists in her village inspired her. She studied with painters Helen Charters, Sandi Kompt, Jay Dempt, Barry Coombs, Donna Berry, Henry Vikkle, Chinok Tans and others. She captures scenes from Grand Manan and the Maritime region in watercolour and oil.

The Group of 8 show features works by Kay Boynton, Bev Cheney, Josie Dalzell, Rosalie Harvey, Winifred Harvey, Molly Laffoley, Barbara Leslie and Lillian Wilcox. Working in herring smoke and boning sheds, operating bed and breakfasts, owning grocery stores, working as telephone operators and full-time



The show **Donna Nixon and the Group of 8**, opening Saturday evening at the Grand Manan Art Gallery, will include this work, **Gannet Rock** by Molly Laffoley.

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mothers, the group provides a snapshot of Grand Manan women.

The group was limited to eight, the most that could fit around a kitchen table to paint and sketch.

The gallery, at 21 Cedar St. in Castalia, is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2, children under 12 free.