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Couple marks fourth year on Belmar's Block 7

Husband-wife gallery owners will help Lakewood arts district celebrate Denver Arts Week

By **Carrie MaKenna**
YourHub Contributor

Four years ago husband and wife Craig Rouse and Carrie MaKenna leased adjoining studio spaces on Block 7 in Belmar. They celebrate this milestone as they participate in Denver Arts Week the annual metro-area-wide festival of the arts and culture. This year, Block 7 is being recognized as an arts district and full participant in the burgeoning cultural scene in Denver.

"From the outset, Block 7 was designed and developed to be an outlet for the arts in the heart of the new 'downtown' of Belmar. It's gone through several incarnations and has settled into its role as a street where the arts live," says MaKenna. "From the first time we came to an event



Husband and wife gallery owners Craig Rouse and Carrie MaKenna. *Carrie MaKenna, YourHub Contributor*

on Block 7, eight years ago, we wanted to have studio space here. Four years ago that dream was realized. Every day, when I unlock my door and turn on the lights, I think, 'This is what I've

always wanted.' It really is a dream come true."

The couple's shared studio space is a double unit with two separate entrances joined in the back by a ramp. Rouse's graphic

design studio, R Design LLC, sports a collection of pencil sharpeners displayed atop a Wall-of-Macs (a stack of old Classics purchased at a DPS auction).

On the back wall is a display of all styles and sizes of the letter R. Each collection represents an aspect of the history of the graphic design industry.

On the other side, MaKenna's art studio and gallery has movable walls she designed and built, with Rouse's help, to display a large amount of artwork in a relatively small space. The walls are easily moved to accommodate her creative-expression workshops, as well as events like intimate weddings and music concerts.

The exhibit they've put together for their fourth anniversary and Denver Arts Week is a sam-

pling of artwork spanning 30 years. It's called "An Attraction to Abstraction." Rouse is showing 1940s-inspired illustrations of Colorado icons like the big-horn sheep and Maroon Bells, while MaKenna's abstractions are featured.

Denver Arts Week kicks off with Know Your Arts First Friday Nov. 4 and Block 7 is pleased to participate with a free art walk open to the public from 5 to 8 p.m.

"Denver Arts Weeks is the perfect backdrop for our fourth anniversary celebration," MaKenna said. "Join us and visit our neighbors during the Art Walk on Block 7."

Carrie MaKenna is the proprietor of Anam Cara Living Arts Studio & Gallery, Alternative Arts and Inspiration.