

Libraries, Art and Reach Out and Read “Diary of a Bake Sale Diva” Art Exhibit



Artist [Ronni Komarow](#) believes that her “...life was saved by her local library”. Growing up in the city, Ronni visited her neighborhood library frequently, delving into books that took her into amazing stories and adventures. Her experience with her local library as a child had a huge influence on her life, especially as a parent. Ronni was instrumental in the grassroots efforts to keep the Boston neighborhood branch libraries open about eight years ago. She knew the importance of local libraries for not only access to books, but for developing parenting connections through the numerous literacy programs, activities and social opportunities libraries offer parents with young children. To this day, Ronni is a member of Friends of Faneuil Library, who support the mission of the library both financially and through supporting activities and events to engage the community.

As an artist, Ronni has been inspired by her life experiences, particularly as a parent of a child in the Boston Public Schools. In an interview with Ronni about her latest piece “Diary of a Bake Sale Diva,” she explains that “the challenges of parenting, public education, government’s responses to public education and literacy all roll into a mix of contemporary social issues.” This was the intent of the 8 ft. x 8 ft. x 8 ft. papier mâché art installation that has about 400 papier mâché cupcakes and 120 feet of hand lettering inside, that if you look closely you can read clues that allude to these issues.

The “Diary of a Bake Sale Diva,” art exhibit was hosted in October entitled “[Tender Mercies](#)” at [Galatea Fine Art](#) in Boston’s SOWA Artists District. In addition to the art installation, Ronni created additional actual size papier mâché cupcakes to be sold to raise money for a local organization. When Ronni spoke to her local Boston Public Library, Reach Out and Read came highly recommended as the program who has the greatest reach to families with young children to promote the importance of early literacy through shared love of books and accessing community programs such as libraries. The contributions raised are from the gallery representing Ronni’s work, Galatea Fine Art in Boston's SOWA Artists District. Galatea Fine Art hosted the art installation exhibit and has administered the sales that make up the contribution to [Reach Out and Read Connecticut and Massachusetts.](#)

Although the “Diary of a Bake Sale Diva” art exhibit has ended, Ronni’s papier mâché cupcakes can still be purchased to support Reach Out and Read Connecticut and Massachusetts and are \$15 each (plus shipping if applicable). If you are interested in purchasing a cupcake, please contact the gallery, attention Gallery Director Hilary Tate, at director@galateafineart.com or (617) 542-1500. In addition to the cupcakes available for purchase, there are also reproduction versions of Ronnie’s artist's books available for \$125 each. Thank you, Ronni and Galatea Fine Art for supporting our important mission.

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