

The artists of yardley Newsletter

Issue #23 Riverrun Gallery Special Edition

The AOY Newsletter is a publication of Artists of Yardley, a not-for-profit organization. Editor: Stephen Millner, Design: John Vollaro, Writer: Anne Gannon. www.artistsofyardley.org

Artists of Yardley at Riverrun Gallery, Lambertville

by Anne Gannon



Reception at Riverrun Gallery May 10, 2008

photo by Brian Davis

The fourth annual group exhibit of the Artists of Yardley was presented this year at the Riverrun Gallery in Lambertville, New Jersey. The Artist's Reception on May 10th was a success because of AOY's Riverrun Committee, the artists, and the hundreds of patrons and friends who attended on opening night. The evening was charged from the start with a spirited ambience that wrapped itself around the room, and everyone in it.

Preparations began when [Kathy Metaxas](#) and [Nancy Allen](#) visited the Riverrun gallery last winter to meet with the owner, Grace Croteau. "It was my intent to bring AOY to a large setting for a major event," Kathy said. Croteau showed interest in hosting the show, so they shaped a multilevel plan that would make it happen. "We formed a committee of volunteers: [Heather Davulcu](#), [Rick Hasney](#), [Hank Müller](#) [Chairman], [Jo-Ann Osnoe](#), [John Vollaro](#), [Gina Waltersdorf](#), [April Zay](#), Nancy and I" she said, "then we exerted full steam to gain more foot traffic."

During the exhibit, they scheduled a live-model painting session and a poetry reading to increase the number of visitors to the gallery. "Grace told me that people stopped by the gallery just to see our show because of the great efforts of our large mailing, and the

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South Wall: top row: *Station Pub* by Jean Childs Buzgo, *Bernstein's Deli* by Harlan Krakovitz, *Medusa's Diamond* by Anne Gannon, *Inner Peace* by Renee Egan. Second row: *Heritage 2008* by Sharon Griffith, *Asteroida* by Nancy Allen, *The Haircut* by Rose Marie Strippoli, *Dream Guardians* by Susan Hogan, *Hands* by Lisa Kennedy. Bottom row: *East on Bridge Street Lambertville* by Jean Childs Buzgo, *Greek Fishermen* by Behrooz Salimnejad, *The Secret* by Lisa Kennedy.

photo by Brian Davis

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press releases that Heather Davulcu prepared and sent out. Hank Miiller was key to the size of the show and coordinating the event” Kathy said. Each volunteer was essential, as the committee itself was small, contributing time and energy towards what turned out to be AOY’s biggest and best show yet.

“Riverrun” seemed an apt name for a business by the river, but I asked Grace anyway why she called it that. She answered, “Riverrun is the first word in James Joyce’s novel, *Finnegan’s Wake*.” Grace’s regard for literature paid tribute to her love of art. During the sixteen years before opening Riverrun, Grace freelanced as a Stained Glass artist and sold her work to lighting stores. She opened the Gallery in 1993. It is in the old Laceworks factory on Route 29, alongside the Delaware River Canal just South of Lambertville. Two years later, Grace and twenty other art enthusiasts founded the Artsbridge organization. “The idea was to get artists together - to show, teach and lecture on art,” she said. Since then, Grace has remained actively involved in keeping local artists moving forward. Grace had good things to say about the AOY show and the daily flow of visitors who came to see it. “I would host another AOY show,” she said. “All the people I dealt with were professional and efficient.”

A few days before our opening reception, the show was juried by Gail Bracegirdle. She chose eight winners: First, Second and Third Place, and five Honorable Mentions.

I spoke with each of the artists and asked them about their winning works: What made the idea for your piece significant? Was it something you noticed... remembered... felt?



Prize Winners: Behrooz Salimnehad, Second Prize, Cynthia Groya, First Prize, Renee Egan, Third Prize.

photo by Brian Davis



Cynthia Groya with her First Prize winning oil painting, *South Street Filly*.

photo by Brian Davis

First Place

***South Street Filly* by Cynthia Groya**
\$100.00 - Gift Certificate from Utrecht

Cynthia took a photograph of her daughter on South Street in Philadelphia about a year ago. “I loved the perspective of the shot, the vibrancy of the colors, the street reflections and the way they all revolved around her.” she said. “It represents my focus on architecture and the ‘people’ who bring architecture to life. It is almost like a traditional ‘sampler’ that women used to do, stitching different kinds of fabric and needlework. My grandmother was a quilter and I find myself constantly seeing and enjoying her influence in my work.

“I use oil paint with linseed oil as my medium on stretched canvas. I don’t use paintbrushes in making my paintings – I mix my paints with palette knives then apply the paint in daubs with various sizes of beveled mat board, cut into rectangles.” This method lets Cynthia avoid the dreaded job of cleaning brushes when she is finished! Gail Bracegirdle said that Cynthia’s work was “bold in scale, color, design, and size.”

Second Place

***Canal in Yardley* by Behrooz Salimnejad**
\$60.00 - Gift Certificate from Utrecht

“A couple of years ago I was walking to my car parked in Yardley Borough by the Grist Mill. I heard something... the surge of a waterfall.” Following the sound, he wandered to the far side of the Mill and came on a beautiful spot. “I have to paint this!” he said. A week later, Behrooz went back with his watercolor pad and a camera – he painted the scene and took some shots. “Later, I started the oil in class using the watercolor as a note and finished it in suite a week later.” Behrooz painted his work with oil on canvas. Gail Bracegirdle’s comment on Behrooz’s work was that it was “beautifully and classically handled.”

Third Place

***Winds of the Caribbean* by Renee Egan**
\$40.00 - Gift Certificate from Utrecht

“I usually paint a landscape on location, or I will take photographs, return to my studio and paint it,” Renee said. Her trips to different places in the Caribbean over the last few years made strong, visual impressions - mental imprints she would rely on when reproducing the image back home. *The Winds of the Caribbean* is painted by my memories of color, shape, and movement. I started this piece not knowing where I was at first... just intuitively filled the canvas. When I paint a landscape I always strive to capture the magic and the mysterious beauty of a place,” she said. Gail Bracegirdle noted that in Renee’s painting “even without the title, you can sense the movement and subject through brushstrokes and color.”

Honorable Mentions

***Trial by Fire* by Patricia Gambino**
(Pottery)

“My piece of pottery *Trial by Fire* is stoneware pottery. It is not colored with a traditional glaze. The coloring comes from smoke and gases that are present in a wood fired barrel in which I put the pottery. I love this

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form of pottery as it is unpredictable; no two pieces could ever be the same.” Patricia said anticipating pulling the pots from the ashes is like Christmas morning “waking up when I was ten years old to see what Santa left me.”

Bernstein’s Deli by Harlan Krakovitz (India Ink on paper)

Harlan’s work is “a depiction of what was a typical Lower East Side street scene; it is reminiscent of the ethnic diversity of the New York that I loved when I worked there,” he said. Harlan enjoys doing this type of subject matter in a spontaneous manner. “It is more a drawing than a painting, and it is freely rendered in both India ink and gouache on brown paper.”

The Show by Dana Matas (Photograph)

“The photo is of a hibiscus flower which I had printed on canvas. The reason I chose canvas was because the photograph lends itself to look like a painting and I thought that would represent fabulously on canvas rather than as a print,” Dana said. She admires and is inspired by Georgia O’Keefe. “I mimic her style of bringing a flower to life with my



Clockwise from top right: *The Show* (honorable mention), photograph by Dana Matas, *Bananas* photograph by Laura Robinson, *Picture Better than Reality* mixed media by Stephen Millner, *Media Fragile Media* mixed media by Stephen Millner. photo by Brian Davis



Honorable Mention Winners: (L to R) Maggy Robinson, Smita Rao, Harlan Krakovitz, Patricia Gambino, and Dana Matas. On balcony, Jo-Ann Osnoe and AOY President Stephen Millner announce the awards. photo by Brian Davis

camera’s lens as she did with her paintbrush. Shooting flowers with a macro lens unveils an intimate and beautiful world that isn’t seen with the naked eye; it becomes a tiny world of competition and colors.” Dana added, “I also love abstract artwork. When you see a painting or a photograph that appears a little vague, it’s OK to interpret it wherever your imagination takes you.”

Mountain View Road by Smita Rao (Photograph)

Smita is an award-winning Bucks County artist. Pioneering the use of digital mixed-media to create novel artwork expresses her love of the local landscape. “This brings the elegance of fine art to the area of digital arts,” she said. “I use the digital media to overlay, fuse and flatten my photographs, watercolors and drawings to portray the local woods and fields. Through this blend of separate visual expressions, I depict my interpretation in sensitively rendered landscapes – luminous and lush in their beauty.”

Zee Table by Maggy Robinson (Woodwork)

Maggy’s suitably named Zee Table is a mélange of exotic woods. “The base is cherry with a natural bark edge, topped by a beautiful chunk of big leaf maple burl. This base supports the one leg, made of paduk, which is attached to the top with yellow heart supports,” Maggy said. She had all the components for a long time – they were just waiting for Maggy to merge them! “This table is the result of one of those

eureka moments. The biggest difficulty was getting the top and base parallel,” she said.

When it was all over, Committee Chairman Hank Miiller said this: “AOY’s first show out of the Yardley-Newtown area was by all measures a great success. It was the first show where all member artists, regardless of their media of expression, could participate. Even gallery sales were better than before.” Hank talked about how the “reception seemed to have no end – people just kept coming and coming and coming... way beyond even the most optimistic projections.” Hank was impressed by the team that put the show together and complimented them on their organization. “Thanks to all who helped!” he said.

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Maggy Robinson’s Zee Table

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Above: Top row (L to R): *Lilacs* by Jo-Ann Osnoe, *Syracuse Farmers Market* by Karen Smallen, *Winter Kitchen* by Karen Smallen. Bottom Row (L to R): *Shad Dinner* by John Ennis, *Sunflowers* by Lisa Felver, *Gourds* by Oz Freedgood (John Ennis in foreground).

Below: *Winter Brook* by John Ennis. Ginny Freedgood and Tilden Reeder in foreground. photos by Brian Davis



Into the Woods by April Zay

photo by Brian Davis



Poetry reading at Riverrun Gallery May 18, 2008, by Marie Kane, Bucks County Poet Laureate, 2006, and Hayden Saunier, Bucks County Laureate, 1991. Sculpture *Time* by Dana Matas in foreground. photo by Stephen Millner

AOY Riverrun Art Exhibit

In AOY's largest show to date, fifty-two members submitted work for the exhibition. The artwork included oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors, pen and ink drawings, photography, pottery, sculpture, and furniture. In addition to the members, the juror, Gail Bracegirdle, exhibited a painting.

Participating Members were: Nancy Allen, Ezi Algazi, Sandy Askey-Adams, Sally Baldino, Kathy Barclay, Rachel Beers, Eileen Borger, Evelyn Buongiovanni, Jean Childs Buzgo, Helen Comolli, Renee Egan, John Ennis, Lisa Felver, Marie Finn, Oz Freedgood, Patricia Gambino, Anne Gannon, Diane Greenberg, Sharon Griffith, Cynthia Groya, Rick Hasney, Bill Hogan, Susan Hogan, Marie Kane, Judy Kaufman, Lisa Kennedy, Harlan Krakovitz, Greta Latzel, Fran Leyenberger, Steve Lorber, Dana Matas, Kathy Metaxas, Hank Müller, Elizabeth Hope Miller, Stephen Millner, Jo-Ann Osnoe, Rachel Page, Smita Rao, Laura Robinson, Maggy Robinson, Behrooz Salimnejad, Jenny Schaeffer, John Sears, Lynnette Shavel, Jay Shin, Karen Smallen, Sharon Spraw, Rose Marie Strippoli, Carole Vaughan, John Vollaro, Gina Waltersdorff, and April Zay.

AOY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held
Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM

Yardley/Makefield Branch of the
Bucks County Free Library
1080 Edgewood Road, Yardley, PA 19067
(215) 493-9020

Upcoming meetings:
October 1, November 5



AOY on the Web

Check out the AOY web site for up to date listings of exhibits, openings, and other news regarding the group.

www.artistsofyardley.org