Contrasting Abstractions

On October 8, 2015 from 6-8pm, Morris Arts will host a free opening reception for the Gallery at 14 Maple’s thirteenth exhibit, entitled CONTRASTING ABSTRACTIONS. For this occasion, the Exhibition Committee of Morris Arts and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, with guest curator, Virginia Fabbri Butera, PhD, selected works by the following outstanding New Jersey artists, Christine Barney (Jersey City), Nancy Cohen (Jersey City), Susan Lisbin (Orange), Lisa Pressman (West Orange), Christine Tenaglia (Wildwood Crest), Ken Weathersby (Montclair) and Gail Winbury (Westfield). The exhibit explores the artists’ varied approaches to abstraction – through the use of different media (glass, wood, fabric, paint, resin, handmade paper, wire, etc.), composition, color and vision. Christine Barney’s sculptural glass works highlight color and explore new geometric forms, while Susan Lisbin’s organic, almost anthropomorphic sculptures evoke whimsy and a sense of the fantastic. In Nancy Cohen’s hands, glass art assumes unexpected and fascinating organic forms – in combination with other media such as metal, glass, wire, handmade paper, and resin. Christine Tenaglia’s wood pieces have a sense of presence and monumentality far beyond their modest proportions while Ken Weathersby’s geometric approach to abstraction utilizes precise patterning and reveals underlying physical structures to engage his viewers. Gail Winbury’s lyrical abstract paintings showcase her distinctive use of color and design while Lisa Pressman’s works focus on line and hint at hidden codes through incorporation of alphabetic and numeric marks.

Curator Virginia Fabbri Butera, PhD, adds, “Since the mid-19th century, visual artists have been experimenting with the creation of non-figurative imagery in 2-D and 3-D objects. In this exhibition we have a wonderful opportunity to contemplate works by 7 mid-career New Jersey artists who are focusing on important metaphors about contemporary abstraction. By manipulating varied substances, colors, and structures in nonrepresentational arrangements, the artists suggest energy, emotion, meaning and psychological inferences and interactions that underlie both 21st century art and life.”

(continued on page 2)
The Keefauver Arts In Education Grant Award: Canfield Elementary in Mine Hill, NJ

On Friday, June 5, 2015, approximately 450 people attended The Voice of Unity event culminating the 6-day arts-in-education residency at the Canfield Elementary School in Mine Hill, New Jersey funded by the $5,700 Keefauver Arts In Education grant. Professional musician, ethnomo-nsicologist and educator Andy Wasserman utilized 140 traditional ethnic wind, string and percussion instruments (some of museum quality) from his personal collection, to explore with students a wide variety of musical and cultural traditions. With 35 years of experience as a professional presenter of this original, one-man arts-in-education program, Wasserman has shared his instruments and cultural knowledge with thousands of schools and more than a million students and teachers. Some of the instruments featured included the Japanese koto, Chinese gongs, a 21 key balafon (West African xylophone), dundun (Middle Eastern finger cymbals), Native American ceremonial drums, Afro-Cuban bongos, claves, maracas and bells. Perhaps, the most telling response was this poem written by a participating student, in response to the experience:

UNITY FROM YOU TO ME, a poem by Angela
You have shown me a whole new world in only six days.
You have shown me how to express myself in a new way.
A world of hate brought together with music and love,
Spread throughout the world – flying high like a dove.
A new love of musical sounds
Sparks an interest that has been found.
Through it has only been 6 days together,
You have created something inside of me that will last forever.
You revealed a new future to see,
You have shared UNITY, from you to me!!!

Clockwise from top left: Oil portrait, Walter, by Janet Boltax; Composition VII, gouache and ink on paper by Christine Wagner; Bottle with Nautilus Shell, oil by Elaine Kurie; Blue Man (from Berlin series), photo by Peter Tilgner; Double Dome, acrylic/oil by Mitchell Rosenzweig; Magnolia, watercolor by Sharon Pitts.

On October 2, 2015, from 6:30-8:30pm, join Morris Arts – meet the artists and view the artworks – at the free opening reception of the Fall/Winter 2015-16 Exhibit at the Atrium Art Gallery, located on Floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration and Records Building on 10 Court Street in Morristown. On the fifth floor, viewers can marvel at contemporary realist artist Elaine Kurie’s exceptional ability to capture texture, light and line with astounding precision and elegance in her oils. By contrast, the forceful, dramatic and vibrant oil/acrylic and mixed media paintings by Mitchell Rosenzweig splash the 4th floor with vivid color, abstract forms and highlight his three dimensional, multilayered approach to painting. The Atrium area of the 3rd floor features Sharon Pitts’ elegantly refined, subtle hued and distinctively large-scale watercolors while, the 3rd floor Hallway area features works by photographer Peter Tilgner who creates thought-provoking photo art by merging “the unplanned” and combining “images of everyday people, places and things into content driven images.” The 3rd floor Elevator Lobby features works by Christine Wagner, whose art features bright basic colors, both linear geometric and fluid organic forms, and evokes both Mondrian and Miro. On the 2nd floor, Janet Boltax’s moving and penetrating series, Aging in America, features intriguing oil portraits and accompanying interviews with each painting’s subject – capturing, in both words and images, the richness of lives.

Most works are available for sale, with details and pricing provided in the free catalogues found in the elevator lobby areas on floors 2-5. The Atrium Art Gallery is free and open to the public during business hours, 8am-5pm on Mondays-Fridays and will be open from 7pm-midnight at First Night Morris County on New Year’s Eve. The exhibit remains in place until January 7, 2015.

Contrasting Abstractions (Continued from page 1)

The public is invited to view this exciting exhibit and to meet the artists at the free opening reception on October 8, 2015 from 6-8pm at Gallery at 14 Maple, a distinctive space located on the 3rd floor of the LEED certified “green” building at 14 Maple Avenue in Morristown, NJ. Refreshments will be served.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges sponsorship for this exhibit by

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Music Beyond Borders 2015 — another winning season

Initiated as a collaboration between Morris Arts and the Mayo Performing Arts Center in 2010, Music Beyond Borders is a series of four free outdoor world music concerts that reflects the diversity of our world and our appreciation for the richness of world cultures. Reflecting the growing popularity of the series, this year drew large crowds again, despite very hot weather and the threat of thunderstorms on several of the dates. Over 1,700 people enjoyed the four programs featuring music and dance from the Middle East (including Turkey, Armenia and Macedonia), the Caribbean, the Ukraine and Korea — on June 23, July 7, July 21 and August 4, 2015, respectively. Some scenes from our 2015 season are pictured at right.

The three astonishing virtuosi of The Secret Trio, Ara Dinkjian (oud), Ismail Lumanovski (clarinet) and Tamer Pinarbaşı (kanun), mesmerized the audience with their fusion of microtonal modes and Middle Eastern style improvisations with dance beats from the Balkans, rapid fire synchronicity and intricate counterpoint. With separate roots in Turkish, Armenian and Macedonian Roma music, they blended classical, jazz, rock and world music into a fascinating aural feast. The warmth and joy of Caribbean music was in ample evidence with the Conroy Warren Duo which inspired people to limbo on the Green and dance to the rhythms of calypso, reggae, samba, and merengue. Accompanied by Mikhail Smirnov on garmoshka (folk button accordion) and Elina Karokhina, balalaika virtuoso, the costumed Ukrainian dancers from Barynya, Olga Chpitalnaia and Sergij Tsychanok, performed and explained the exciting and athletic traditional Ukrainian dances and even shared some dance moves with an enthusiastic audience. The season closed with 12 elegantly dressed dancers from Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori (KTDOC) — (directed by Eun-Hee Ahn) — who performed the resplendent Fan Dance, the children’s Puppet Dance, the Mask Dance, the Hourglass Drum Dance and other traditional Korean dances portraying emotions, seasons and elements of nature and tales of Korean folk tradition. Their performance was visually stunning. Visit http://www.morrisarts.org/programs/music-without-borders/ to see more photos and videos of these programs.

1.) The Secret Trio with their instruments (L-R): Tamer Pinarbaşı (kanun), Ara Dinkjian (oud) and Ismail Lumanovski (clarinet); 2.) Crowds enjoying The Secret Trio; 3.) Patrick Gomes (steel pan) and Conroy Warren (guitar and vocals) of The Conroy Warren Duo, bringing “musical sunshine” from the Caribbean; 4.) Dancing the limbo to The Conroy Warren Duo; 5.) Dancers from Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori (KTDCC); 6.) The Korean Fan Dance; 7.) Little performer on the Korean hourglass drum; 8.) Performers of Ukrainian music and dance from Barynya: Dancers Olga Chpitalnaia and Sergij Tsychanok with Elina Karokhina, balalaika virtuoso; 9.) (L-R): Mikhail Smirnov, Elina Karokhina, Olga Chpitalnaia and Sergij Tsychanok.

Pumpkin Illumination returns to Morristown on Sunday, October 25th, 2015

Be a part of Morris Arts’ 6th Pumpkin Illumination event. On October 25th, bring your carved pumpkins to the Vail Mansion’s reflecting pool and monument at 110 South Street, Morristown where pumpkins will be lit and arranged around the reflecting pool at dark — making a wonderful display. Additional activities — including a second town location as well as connecting with a Morris Arts’ Artist Residency program, are “in the works,” so check our website, www.morrisarts.org, for more details as they become available.

Special thanks go to MetLife Foundation and Mondelēz International for their generous sponsorship of this event.
TO SUPPORT MORRIS ARTS: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

• Consider an in-kind gift. Now is a great time to share your technical or professional expertise or items that you think might be useful to Morris Arts.

• Celebrate holidays and milestones with a tribute gift to Morris Arts. A donation to Morris Arts is the perfect gift to for a loved one committed to creativity.

• Check to see whether your company has a matching gift program. Some companies will match the donations or value of volunteer time given by their employees.

• Send us your e-mail address! We value sustainability and community – help us communicate with you more effectively as we all work to build a greener, more creative world. To sign up, visit www.morrisarts.org.

All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information contact Gina Morran, Morris Arts’ Development Director, at gmoran@morrisarts.org or (973) 285-5115, ext. 13.

Fun for all at GIRALDA Music and Arts Festival 2015

Clockwise from top left: “Joie de Vivre” picnic participants; large, happy crowds enjoy the symphony; Artist Dan Fenelon (of the Montclair Art Museum truck) with his elephant project and young artists (photo by Ellen Papazian); Conductor Gemma New; leading the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra; The community poetry tent.

Threatening thunderstorms didn’t deter the fun at this year’s Giralda Music and Arts Festival where Gemma New conducted the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in a program featuring Dvorak’s Carnival Overture; Brahms’ Hungarian Dance No. 5; Mozart — Selections from Ballet Music from Idomeneo; Ravel — Selections from Le Tombeau de Couperin; Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March” from A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Tchaikovsky — Selections from The Nutcracker; Bernstein/Peress West Side Story Overture; Arr. Norris — Duke Ellington Medley; Arr. Nowak — Fiesta Latina; Arr. Topper — Let’s Dance Disco Hits; Arr. Moss — Ol’ Blue Eyes Sinatra Medley; Custer’s Big Band Salute, Lowden’s Armed Forces Salute and Sousa’s classic Stars and Stripes Forever. Additionally, the event featured a poetry tent, an art show and sale, children’s activities (hula hooping, the Montclair Art Museum Truck, etc.), a vintage ice cream truck, the traditional picnic contest (with fabulous prizes!) and a very successful 50/50 raffle!

Morris Arts thanks our sponsors whose support made this event possible: Corporate Arts Partner: NJ.com affiliated with The Star-Ledger; Giralda Property Sponsors: Open Spaces Management Association, GRC Management Corp., Lincoln Equities LLC, Giralda Farms RE LLC, Lince Management Company, Inc., American Realty Capital, Madison Giralda Property Owner LLC, Normandy Real Estate Partners; Community Sponsors: BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation, Epoch Times, Mariner Wealth Advisors — Madison, MetLife Foundation, Kings Food Market, Gary’s Wine & Marketplace, Township of Chatham and Morris County Park Commission and...