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“Love” Art Exhibition August 7-27th 2009

Biographies

Marlene D'Orazio Adler

Our world is so amazing! One must believe that there has to exist a higher power – a creative force that has brought into being so many wondrous and beautiful things as found in nature.

Birds have been one of my most beloved of all creatures on this earth. They represent to me many things - free spirits, symbols for peace (i.e., the dove) and they have inspired many forms of expression – both spiritual and secular such as is found in prayer, literature and art.

Morning Light [monoprint] expresses my love for birds and with it I have tried to capture the beautiful light seen in the early morning hours, filtering through trees and the intriguing way that birds perch on branches as they sing their beautiful songs.

Nancy Alter

In thinking about the theme of this exhibition I am drawn into thinking about how one feels when talking about love or about what images speak of love. I have been predominantly a landscape painter. I do this because of the wonder I experience when viewing the landscapes of our vast country. It is the way I feel about being alive, loving life and the visual experience of the mountain or the swirling immersion of the earth's elements in Yellowstone National Park or the vast sky that touches the earth and goes on and on. It is an overwhelming feeling much as I feel the love when I watched my children at play or tender intimate moments with friends and family. These images explore the earth's astoundingly broad palette and ancient geological patterns, expressing these emerging and ever-changing colorful patterns. These images speak of an incredible spiritual gift to us as we are truly loved.

Following are more details about my background. I re-entered the art world in 2004 after a long and successful career in Information Technology. I received a BA in Art Education from Glassboro State College, now Rowan University, in 1970 and taught art in the Cherry Hill School System for two years. From 1970 to 1976 I was a productive artist showing locally. Later I continued to work at developing my painting skills and techniques, albeit at a slower pace, while pursuing a career in the corporate world. Now retired, I'm working as a fulltime artist.

Recent showings include Ambre Studio, Inc. in Bethlehem, Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA, The Philadelphia Sketch and Plastics Clubs in Philadelphia and The Philadelphia Free Library. Awards include; Michael Lusachin Award from the American Color Print Society November 2008, second place from Ambre Studio Inc. for “Lacquer and Gold – Asian Esthetics” November 2007, and honorable mention from the American Color Print Society October 2006. My work is in the permanent collection at the main branch of the Philadelphia Free library and in several private collections.

Spencer Brennen

Spencer Brennen is a 20 year old studio art major at the University of Maryland.

Having grown up in the Philadelphia area his love of soft pretzels is understandable, though not always healthy. Art has been a part of his life since he was able to hold crayons without eating them, and he received critical acclaim by age 6 from his Nana.

These days you can either find Spencer buried under a pile of books, nose deep in the newest novel he managed to snag, or in a corner drawing or painting, often with multiple brushes and pencils in his mouth, hands and hair. Spencer specializes in watercolor illustrations and pencil realism and is slowly working his way into graphic art. When he's not painting Spencer practices martial arts five days a week and has earned the name "Martial arts and crafts Ninja".

Spencer doesn't know where he'll end up as the road goes ever on and on, but he does know that he will always stop to paint the roses.

Matteo Colaizzo

Matthew L. Colaizzo is a Philadelphia artist whose primary art form is printmaking. He specializes in the woodblock print, which allows him to bring drawing and engraving into harmony with the wood. He manipulates the wood in many ways, using chisels, razor blades, punches and wire brushes, allowing the wood to splinter, crack, and reveal the grain to become an integral part of his composition. The final print is printed on the paper by hand rather than with a press.

Matthew Colaizzo is a graduate of Temple's Tyler School of Art. He will be attending the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in the fall to obtain a Master of Fine Arts Degree.

About the work by Matthew Colaizzo in "Love" Art Exhibition
"Grandma Moses with Old Glory"

Anna Mary Robertson Moses, better known as 'Grandma Moses' was a renowned American folk artist. She started painting when she was in her seventies and continued until she died at the age of 101.

Her style of painting can be described as primitivism, with her subjects being of the simple farm life in rural America. To me Grandma Moses represents the love of the simple life and the natural environment.

"Munakata Shikō"

"The woodcut, unconcerned with good and evil, with ideas, with differences, tells us that it consists of truth alone"

-Munakata Shikō

"Roscoe Holcomb"

Roscoe Holcomb, from Daisy, Kentucky, was an Appalachian old-time musician. He worked most of his life as a coal miner and farmer and had no ambitions to become a professional musician. His music represents the lives of the people who had a love for their land and hard work.

"Only For the Sake of the Song"

When you have nobody to love or to talk to, sometimes you may find your self taking a walk down the railroad tracks in the early morning, waiting for a big long train to come through. As you watch it roll by, you feel its power and hear its song; then you feel better.

Benjamin Dasher

Ben Dasher is a twenty-one year old Jewish artist born and bred in Philadelphia. He currently attends Temple University's Tyler School of Art, where he is going into his senior year as a Printmaking and Art Education Major. Dasher was raised as a member of the Orthodox Jewish Community of Northeast Philadelphia where he attended an Orthodox elementary school and high school. Despite absorbing many of the positive principles of Jewish living in his twelve years of study, Dasher usually found the large empty margins in the Holy books more fascinating than the texts and would devote much of his efforts to creating elaborate doodles not necessarily related to the day's lesson.

After high school Dasher opted to attend college instead of going to Israel for the customary year of in-depth Jewish study, disregarding the advice of many of his friends and Rabbis. Shortly into his first semester at the Tyler School of Art Dasher came to the conclusion that he made the right decision for himself ("they actually want you to draw in class?") and has not since looked back, finding his ideal medium of artistic expression, Printmaking, as well as subject matter, scenes that represent the general condition of human existence taken from his immediate surroundings.

Dasher navigates both the secular and artistic worlds with the help of his Jewish day school lessons in ethics, empathy, and kindness and will be continuing to employ those lessons while studying art in Rome, Italy this coming semester.

About the work by Ben Dasher in "Love" Art Exhibition

Artist as Moses:

In this piece I aimed to allude to a scene of biblical/religious significance where in reality it is not by placing on my own insignificant face the traditional expression of humbleness and piety.

Ben Lottie Sara:

This piece expresses the intricacies and dynamics of the love between siblings and parents. This image of my sisters and I is based off of an old snapshot my mother took at a rare opportune moment in which of all three of us were in the same room. Each of us at that moment exhibited what my mother considers to be one of our dominant character traits, myself holding a guitar, my younger sister Lottie playfully sticking out her tongue, and my older sister Sara, outside of my mothers ability to decipher.

Orange Line

This piece was inspired by my nightly commute home on the Orange Line. I tried to capture the bleak emptiness of a late night subway, and thus bring out in the viewer a sense of empathy and compassion for these exhausted and weary travelers.

Stranger as Moses

I often draw people while on the Subway as a means to think about and study the world around me. Only after this drawing was completed did I see it as a way to elevate this resting stranger's life to that of a biblical figure, for he seemed to me as deep in heavy contemplation as any man or woman in the depths of prayer.

Ben Lottie Sara:

While biking home from school one day I got a call telling me of a Succos party not far from where I was. Upon Arriving I found my two sisters were already there and this photo was taken as we greeted one another. I attempted to capture the energy of our greetings with a fast and free line. The tears and folds of the paper remind me that I carried this drawing and the photo it is derived from around with me taped in my sketchbook for almost a year, like a picture in ones wallet.

Susan Forbes

When I was a small child I felt sorry for anyone who could not draw and paint. Toys meant nothing to me as long as I had a sharpened pencil and clean paper. Color excited me. I attended classes at a neighborhood center as well as Tyler School of Art on Saturday mornings. At age ten, I won a chance to paint **Gimble's** windows in a Halloween Contest for neighboring elementary schools, winning first prize for my school. With the prize money, we bought mosaic tiles and I created a large picture for my school lobby.

In my twenties I produced drawings of album covers and sold them in a store on South Street in Philadelphia. This was the Sixties and album covers in shops was a viable commodity. Life happened and my art became eclipsed by the reality of a full time teaching job and my real job of being a single mother.

I retired from teaching in 2000 and plunged back into art lessons. I never had any formal training and I began taking courses at the **Norristown** Art League and the **Woodmere** Art Museum, first in watercolor with Jim **Mcfarlane** and then portrait painting with Paul **Dusold**. I am currently studying landscape, figure painting as well as portraits and still life at **Woodmere** and **PAFA**. Along with my classes, I am a member of the **Manayunk** Art Coop, the **Norristown** Art League and the **Woodmere** Art Museum. When not painting and exhibiting myself, I visit art museums and read art books. My life is again, all about art.

I have shown my work in frame shops and in juried shows in the Philadelphia area, have won six prizes for my watercolors and have sold some of my landscapes. My favorite painting subjects are the cityscapes and scenes with figures going about their daily lives. I travel a lot with my camera and instead of waiting for the people to pass, I try to capture the within the scene. I'm also apt to photograph any animals, especially dogs, so I spend much of my trips at zoos and petting farms.

My work has been described as bold and I work intuitively, sometimes very quickly. Color is still very important and I love experimenting with color combinations and limited palettes. For me, the painting of a picture is a visceral experience and truly rewarding, and of course, I am making up for lost time.

Stephanie Justice Kenny

In my life I've found that real love isn't just those happy times in life. Real love is work. It's through the hard times and easy. It exists when you're angry and it exists when you're frustrated with each other. Love is the hardest thing to find and maintain. So once you have it, you should fight for it and work past the rough parts. Because the love you had in the beginning won't be the same kind of love at the end. But it will be stronger and more beautiful because you earned every ounce of it.

I've been taking pictures since my sophomore year of high school. I attended University of the Arts from 2002-2006 where I received my B.F.A. in Photography. More recently I've been doing freelance work as well as taking photos of events around the city for 2.1.5. Magazine.

Rebecca N. Levy

My mother was a professional photographer from the time I was born until I was about twelve years old, so I feel as though I was brought up with cameras and shutters constantly going off, immersing me into a realm of studio lights, dark rooms, and true creativity from a young age. I am currently majoring in photography at the Community College of Philadelphia on Spring Garden. I am happiest with a camera in my hand.

When told that the theme of this month's exhibition was "Love," my heart went right to my family. The piece **Visiting Oma** was taken last year at the hospital where my great-grandmother passed, four days short of her 107th birthday. In this photograph, my sister and father are visiting Oma while she is ill. Oma was always incredibly family oriented – nothing made her happier than showing us off to those she had lived among in her retirement home. She was a holocaust survivor in Nazi Germany, and used a fake passport to get her husband out of Buchenwald (a concentration camp in Germany at the time) in 1939. This is just one example of the devotion she had to those she loved... She would really do anything she felt she could do. At the age of 99 she broke her hip and was told she would not be able to walk. Two months later at her 100th birthday party, she walked in calmly with a smile on her face, no walker or cane in hand. To me, she was the embodiment of strength and love.

Congratulations was taken this year at my cousin's graduation from Tufts University in Boston. This is a photograph of her and her grandfather right after the ceremonies, and him congratulating her on her completion of school. My favorite part of this particular photograph is the texture in his hand. I'd like to think there is a good amount of emotion that floats from this captured moment.

Devotion was a snapshot taken by the Academy of Music on the Avenue of the Arts a few years ago. I am not familiar with the couple involved, but I was compelled to take their picture at the time, because I believe it's not easy nowadays to find couples who have been together through happiness and are willing to overcome hardships. I can only assume the woman had not always been in a wheelchair, and that he was willing to stick by her and literally help her round her life while having his own as well. Maybe I make up stories about people too frequently just by looking at them, but I liked the idea.

Everything Else Disappeared is a photograph I took of my boyfriend three years back, soon after there was a very traumatic situation that directly and indirectly involved many people we knew at the time and still know. Recently when I've seen him, the whole world around us seems to disappear, and everything feels very perfect and absolute. His face and eyes come to my mind immediately when I think of the word *love*. Despite many things that may have seemed to have gone askew within the past five years, I can't imagine anyone ever meaning as much to me as he does.

Michele Machles

Michele Machles, mother, daughter, relative, friend and teacher to many.
A visual art graduate from Philadelphia's High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. I'm a fine artist by nature, but I've also worked professionally in the commercial art field. Most of my life I've spent teaching in Philadelphia Public Schools, Hebrew Schools, and camps.

At religious schools my students know me for assisting them in their creations of Visual Prayer Posters which are interpretations of traditional prayers from our siddur. My personal design style began while I was in high school. The multicultural magnet school environment is reflected in my design patterns. The work displayed here began from these roots and has also taken on expressions from my studies of world religions and cultures. My vases are called "treasure vases." They are derived from the traditional vases used many years ago in Tibetan culture. Treasure vases were placed at the crossroads to bring blessings and good fortune to the communities that lived there.

I keep my wishes, dreams, and prayers inside my vases.

I paint acrylic on glass to work out my symmetrical patterns mostly consisting of four colors. The process and the results of my creative efforts serve very much the same purpose as **(do/would)** creating mandalas. To me, art quiets the soul therefore enabling one to place their feet on the beginning stages of their spiritual journey. The practice of an artist focuses consciousness in the present moment. Practicing being in the present moment is where the source of change, life's power is found. Gradually the artist gains access and the ability to pay attention to their inside world as well as the outer, thereby acquiring the tools one needs to become a co-creator with God. In my design patterns I reflect back the modernism of our culture blended with the sanctity of the ancient civilizations that had originally practiced this art form.

Miguel Abraham Manzur

The artist of The Seekers was born 21 years ago on a rainy day of June 5. Growing up in his hometown Philadelphia fueled his creativity at a young age. Having supportive and loving parents the young artist Miguel Abraham Manzur graduated from CHAD (Charter High School for Architecture and Design) in 2007. After much deliberation of what college to attend the young artist Miguel Abraham Manzur chose Philadelphia's University of the Arts. Here the young artist is flourishing and beginning his third year of being part of the awesome illustration department. In searching for an outlet to share his wonderful artwork he created a website called Studio 52 (<http://studio52.squarespace.com/>) where he hopes to connect with other artists.

The Seekers are two individuals who are looking for the perfect person to love. In my work they are represented as the samurai and the geisha. However, instead of realizing their reality of who is their perfect match they chase after the butterflies. The butterflies in my work represent the false notions and infatuations. Blurring the lines of love and lust.

There is a song from Mana that I would like to note it's called Mariposa Traicionera (The Butterfly who betrays). The song describes a woman who is beautiful and blinding, seducing men to love her. However, in the end the woman breaks their heart by betraying the men and their trust. This song coincides with my painting.

Deborah Kaplan Mouhib

As a graduate in Fine Arts I had worked in the "sweet" plastic arts of cake decoration as SUD FINE PASTRY for 30 years. Loving to draw led me to study portraiture with a focus on light and a large, direct presence of the model.

This portrait is of my mother's mother, Fanny. My mother, Zena, had just passed away in March '09 and this image from an old photo called to me. My mother was deeply in love with her. Although she died 2 months after I was born, this photo spoke of her kindness and beauty. I wanted to bring our connection to life.

Awards:

Philadelphia Sketch Club "Works on Paper"	2009	Robert Grooms Award
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art	2009	1st prize in show
Manayunk Art Center	2009	1st prize in graphics

Lauren Steinberg

When a historical building is demolished we lose a link to the past. Our cultural identity may also be compromised for better or for worse. The same can be said of significant places in our own, individual histories. Unable to return to them, we are left with only memories. We feel as if we can no longer rediscover the past. I took up photography to address my nostalgia and began capturing places from my youth. The project then expanded, and I began to look for scenes and situations that might express a sense of cultural nostalgia.

I am a recent graduate of Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. where I had the opportunity to explore photography, film and art within the context of our changing global media and culture. I currently live in Los Angeles and work for a fine art photographic printer, and assist at a gallery in Santa Monica.