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"Pirkei Avot / Ethics of the Fathers"

July 3-29th 2009

Biographies

Marlene D'Orazio Adler

Marlene has been teaching art since 1983. Most of her teaching experience has been at the high school level.

One of her most memorable teaching experiences took place on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota where she taught high school art. It was here that she first encountered the Native American philosophy which emphasizes respect for the earth and reverence for our world; often through storytelling and symbolism. This inspired Marlene to create works with symbolic meanings - at first borrowed from Native American culture and other world cultures - later developing into a personal collection of symbolic imagery.

Papermaking is another one of Marlene's skills as an artist. She uses her handmade paper to add textured elements to her printmaking. She also incorporates mixed media and collage in her prints. Marlene belongs to a number of professional organizations including: The American Color Print Society, The Print Center, Guild of Papermakers, Guild of Printmakers (Cheltenham, PA), Friends of Dard Hunter, National Art Education Association, Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Keneseth Israel Museum Artists Collective.

Marlene's artwork is collected both privately and by public institutions. To see more of Marlene's work go to www.guildofpapermakers.com

Kathleen Chapman

BFA, Painting, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia PA
Certification in Art Education, University of the Arts, Philadelphia PA

Kathleen has been an art educator in both public and private schools since 1990. She is committed to promoting safe art practices and continues to implement non-toxic materials in her own work.

Although trained as a painter, Chapman's true passion has proved to be printmaking, which she finds particularly exciting due to the "magical surprises" discovered as each print is pulled from the press. Her work includes etchings, collagraphs, monotypes, and artist books. Her latest prints focus on American cemeteries and their icons of faith and remembrance.

Kathleen has exhibited in a variety of group, invitational and juried shows, including Ambré Gallery in Bethlehem PA, Penn State University and the University of Pennsylvania. She is represented in numerous private collections. Her most recent award was presented by the American Color Print Society.

Bonnie Goldstein

BFA, Moore College of Art majoring in Ceramic Design
M.Ed. Arcadia University

Bonnie has been teaching art at The Shipley School for the past fifteen years. She continues to study at the Academy of Fine Arts, the University of the Arts, and the Cheltenham Art Center.

Her awards include the Esther Rose Fisher Printmaking Award, the Larmon Photography Award and the Sarah A. Peters Fine Arts Traveling Fellowship Award. She is a member of Artists Equity. Her work has been exhibited in numerous group shows and she has had solo exhibitions in photography, printmaking and book arts. Bonnie's work is in a number of private collections.

Diana Tafllin Myers

Diana Myers has studied art history and fine arts at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as Cheltenham and other community art centers, Peters Valley and Touchstone Craft Centers, and during trips to New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Italy, Greece, France, and Turkey. Her work has been shown in group shows including the Island Center for the Arts in Skopelos, Greece, the Ambre Gallery in Bethlehem, PA, the Da Vinci Art Alliance in Philadelphia, the Artworks Gallery in Chestertown, MD, Rosemont College in Villanova, PA, and in a solo show in Elkins Park, PA. She is a member of the Cheltenham Printmakers Guild and received the Board of Directors Award from the Cheltenham Art Center Annual members show in 1996 and again in 2007.

Ms. Myers is a mixed media artist who focuses on themes and materials. A constant theme is that people and things are often not what they seem. In expressing this, she explores the integrity of each material, and then combines it with others, sometimes with surprising results. She often works in multiple layers and textures, expressing the experiences, cultures and influences that shape her life. While her work is serious in its exploration of the mysteries and complexities of life, it is also whimsical, expressing the sense of humor and joy that makes living worthwhile.

The works in this show were inspired during her trip to Eastern Europe in the Fall of 2008. Titled the Holocaust Series, they incorporate burnt and waxed papers and broken headstones to express the emotions experienced during visits to the Warsaw Ghetto, the Old Prague Cemetery, and memorials to the Jews murdered in Europe. While dark and brooding, they have shards of light and color, representing our miraculous survival and the hope with which we look to future generations of Jews.

Merle Spandorfer

Merle Spandorfer's new work consists of mixed media works on paper combining her handmade paper pieces with painting, drawing, collage and laser printing. The essence of her new work is an expression of the passage of time. She quotes P.B. Shelley, "Time is our consciousness of the succession of ideas in our mind." She believes that the secret of life is to appreciate and enjoy the passage of time. The flower, a metaphor for her concept, is shown as buds, in full bloom and even withered and dried. This transition, to the artist, has beauty as energy in time and space.

Merle Spandorfer's paintings, prints and artist's books are in the permanent collections of over 100 museums and corporations including the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Israel Museum, The Baltimore Museum and The Library of Congress. She has exhibited in 30 one-person shows and more than 200 group exhibitions in museums, universities and galleries in Europe, Asia and major U.S. cities.

She has taught at the Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, Pratt Institute, Cheltenham Center for the Arts and has lectured at various institutions including the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in China.

Spandorfer has received numerous prizes including the Pennsylvania Education Association Outstanding Art Educator Award and is co-author of the book Making Art Safely published by Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Carol Wit

My prints are hand painted one of a kind 'monotypes,' which are printed on a large printing press bed. I use non-toxic printing inks.

Our journey in life is a series of chapters. In many of my chapters I explore places, space or patterns. I search using elemental elements i.e., color, shape, and form. The viewer is drawn in to contemplate on a feeling level. It takes me and the viewer away from this fast paced world. My art enables me to strive for a new place while immersed in a technological and challenging world.

Lois Yampolsky

Lois Yampolsky, wife, mother, daughter, grandmother and friend to many.

Since I was a child, art has been something that I always loved.

I always dreamed of having some kind of art in my life, and as an adult, I have fulfilled my dreams.

I attend Cheltenham Center for the Arts and have been a student for quite a few years. I originally took painting classes and have since switched to printmaking.

I have fallen in love with art. I do collagraphs which starts from just a single piece of cardboard and textures and evolves into amazing art work. It enables me to create from my soul and takes me places I didn't know existed.

This series represents my morals and values of life.