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“Pirkei Avot II Art Exhibition”
July 2-28, 2010

Biographies

Marlene D’Orazio Adler

I was excited to be asked to participate in this exhibit since I have been working with the image of gates in my work for some time. In this series of work I also engage with other symbols that reflect our interaction with others and the world we live in.

What intrigues me about this project is not so much about the fence which keeps things out or in but rather the gate of the fence which allows for movement through the fence. The idea of gates represents something that we pass through all the time in different ways. Justice, peace and truth are things we should take with us as we enter in and out our own gates and those of others. My gate would have a gate keeper who would determine that the intentions of those who would like to enter are good, fair, and trustworthy.

Kathleen Chapman

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 work focuses on American cemeteries and their icons of faith and remembrance.

“Cemeteries are more about the living than the dead- the way we memorialize those who’ve gone before, with symbols and icons of faith and remembrance. I have been thinking about the beautiful ways we mark the lives of those who came before us. For me, this path is not one of sorrow but of comfort and wonderment as I see and feel the stories held in these places.”

Kathleen has exhibited in a variety of group, invitational and juried shows, including Ambré Gallery (Bethlehem, PA), OCJAC (Philadelphia, 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. She is a member of the American Color Print Society and the Cheltenham Printmakers Guild.

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 sixteen 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. Currently, Bonnie works with monotypes and continues to develop artist's books.

“Windows”

My work is a reflection of the ethics of our fathers and mothers, as well as my own core values.

Windows are a way of looking within and at the external world. Looking within my soul.

Wilhelmina McDaniel

Wilhelmina, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia came to Philadelphia to complete graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. While at the University of Virginia where she received a Bachelors of Science degree, Wilhelmina enrolled in drawing classes. However, her creative spirit truly came to fruition while taking painting and printmaking classes at Cheltenham Arts Center for the last 5 years under the instruction of Merle Spandorfer.

Wilhelmina's prints are collographs, which are made from a collage plate, painted with nontoxic inks and printed on a large printing press bed. The inspiration for Wilhelmina's work is the beauty and simplicity found in nature. The colors, shapes and textures of nature come together to provide her with visual stimulation which she transfers to her art.

Printmaking, as a medium, has a certain amount of unpredictability where the simplicity of items like seaweed, leaves, and sand, create a distinct texture on the canvass. The blues of the sky, greens of the grass and trees and soft colors of the flowers create a color palette which Wilhelmina emulates in her paintings.

The Creator gave us this beauty of nature to enjoy, be inspired by and the ultimate responsible to protect for now and future generations.

Diana Taflin Myers

This series of woven prints is entitled “Dor L’Dor “(from Generation to Generation). The five pieces explore how ethics and values are formed, interwoven, and passed down from one generation to the next. Jewish families are rooted in the Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers and Mothers) and those ethics and values are handed down to their children and their children's children. At the same time, each successive generation adds its own spirit to the tapestry. The essence of the series is captured in

“Youthful Spirit,” which is composed from paintings and drawings created with my three granddaughters.

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, the Markheim Gallery in Cherry Hill New Jersey 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 printmaker and 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.

Nora Quinn

Nora Quinn was born in Philadelphia. She attended Kutztown University where she received a BFA in Communication Design concentrating in Graphics and Advertising. While at Kutztown, Nora took a variety of Fine Art classes and she was featured in an exhibition called “The Artist’s Sketchbook- a Visual Journey through Mexico”. Since Graduating from college Nora has been working as a graphic designer at a print shop in center city Philadelphia. She enjoys painting and printmaking in her spare time.

Painting 1-“UFO”

“If I am not for myself who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, What am I?”

When making this painting the purpose was to create something vibrant and pleasant to look at. Art can be very therapeutic for both those creating the art and those who view it. This piece is meant to be lively and colorful.

Painting 2- *Harmony*

Path to perfection “Who is happy? He who is happy with what he has.”

The simple enjoyment of harmonious color and shapes is like a person respecting the laws and order that wise people have handed down. By simply following these guiding principles one can have a good, honest, simple life.

Artists often have to trust their own instincts. You must know yourself ultimately and what you think is right. You must know when to stop working on a piece of art.

Print 2- *Crystals*

“Love work”

This print was an exploration in different mediums. My teacher encouraged me to add more and more layers of silkscreen and collage to it. I enjoyed the process of making this piece.

Merle Spandorfer

Merle Spandorfer’s new work consists of mixed media monotypes 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

Carol Wit’s print series uses the circle to symbolize the inter connections among people. Around the planet we influence and are influenced by others. So how do we live together meaningfully and in harmony? In Jewish Traditions Pirkei Avot “Ethics of the Fathers” are guidelines to life. Carol Wit’s work examines these teachings. She is on a journey exploring Pirkei Avot teachings through use of circles, space, color, line and textures, creating a visual road map.

Lois Yampolsky

This is my newest image, it is called "Containing Humility".

Biography: Lois began as a painter, working primarily with acrylics. Her transition to printmaking developed more recently, and grew under the guidance of nationally known artist and printmaker, Merle Spandorfer.

In creating her collagraphs, Lois draws inspiration from her work environment. She believes that in life it is important to constantly search for things that make you happy and fulfilled. Her work environment is Judaism at its most complete level. On a daily basis, Lois has been able to find answers to deep questions, and she incorporates them into her printmaking. The collagraph technique enables Lois to use her creative expression in a spiritual process that helps her achieve her best work. For Lois, the collagraph process begins by piecing together elements and textures that take her on a journey to the finished print and then it reveals itself in its most complete form.

Most recently, Lois was awarded the Bernice Altschul Memorial Award for printmaking and photography at the Cheltenham Center for the Arts 69th Memberships Exhibition. She has also exhibited at the Old City Jewish Art Center in Philadelphia and at the Arts Blooms Juried Exhibit at the Croft Farm Arts Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

My theme is called "Fences for the Torah"

The Men of the Great Assembly said "Make A Fence Around the Torah. What does it Mean?"

The Sages wanted to protect the thing inside the Torah. They made "Fences". These laws keep us from making a mistake and going against the laws of the Torah.