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Old City Jewish Art Center a project of Jewish Heritage Programs
119 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-923-1222 www.ocjac.org

“The Artist, the Teacher, the Protégé Art Exhibition”

May 7-27th, 2010

Biographies

Harold Kimmelman

Anita Riley, Protégé

I strive to portray spirit and energy in my sculpture. I work with metal, concrete, stone, and wood, my preference is metal. I work to transform these materials from a static, heavy mass to an animated presence pulsing with energy, alive with movement. The forms that I design and build are drawn from my observations and responses to the real world.

I usually prefer to work directly with metal developing shapes by using heat and applying tension and compression. Tool marks and welds are revealed (as brush strokes in a painting) only when they add to the aesthetics of the sculpture, otherwise my tendency is to polish to a mirror like finish. This is my way of working to preserve the metal's intrinsic properties unlike casting which replicates a clay or wax preliminary model.

Anita Riley, a talented artist admired my work and offered to assist me in my studio. She demonstrated artistic and practical skills as well as “point of view” that was unique. I instructed her and we worked together for several years. Today she continues to sculpt and paint and exhibits and her art in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts.

Another talented artist Jon Lubar, showed original thinking and worked with me on “Burst of Joy”, we shared creative insights as we made sculpture together. Today Jon works and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Jonathan Mandell

Sharon Ritz, Protégé

Jonathan's mosaics are on permanent display at the National Constitution Center, The National Liberty Museum, The University of Pennsylvania and at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, PA, the McGraw Hill Company in New York, Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA among other sites throughout the country. Jonathan's newest public commission is a sculptural mosaic installation created for the lobby of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, IL. His mosaics have been featured in The Bel Aire Hotel Magazine, Glass Art Magazine, and The Penn Gazette.

Mandell's talent lies in the implementation of fundamental fine art concerns such as perspective, color composition and drawing into the medium of mosaic. Utilizing such materials as glass shards, ceramic tile, semiprecious stones, minerals, mirror, marbles, Mandell creates wall-mounted panels, which evolve into tactile paintings. His grout lines act as drawing lines, bringing his imagery to life. The glass shards are not flat, but rather are convex and concave pieces. This allows for a study of the surface topography of the mosaic. In addition to his wall-mounted mosaics, Jonathan has a wide portfolio of sculpture mosaics. You can find more information about Jonathan and his entire portfolio is on the web at: www.jonathanmandell.com.

Sharon Ritz loves glass and making mosaic art and crafts. Sharon began her exciting journey in creating her colorful pieces fairly recently. She enjoys making secular as well as Judaic pieces.

Jonathan Mandell has been one of Sharon's more influential teachers, teaching her to see her subjects in a different way... a “painterly” way. With Jonathan's patient guidance, Sharon has learned to incorporate grout lines as outlines for her pieces. This is especially true in her piece “Drawn In”.

Sharon lives in Cherry Hill, NJ with her family and has her studio in her home. Her online gallery can be seen at <http://sharpartsmosaics.tripod.com> .

Daniel Ostrov
Aviva Gomberg, Protégé

Daniel Ostrov is an artist living and working in Philadelphia. He was introduced to glass at Tulane University and received an MFA from Tyler School of Art. He uses glass, wood, metal, ceramics and found objects to create sculptures that embody the subconscious creation of memory and experience. Drawing on imagery of sunken ships, fragments of ruined buildings and fossilized remains his work refers to buried memories and nostalgia for a time out of mind. Daniel's work is primarily installation based where the viewer enters a space of memory although he creates smaller forms that reference this experience.

Daniel currently lives in Philadelphia where he works as the art teacher at Stern Hebrew High School, an orthodox day school. His teaching philosophy is one of guided self discovery where the students are introduced to a wide range of materials and techniques and develop their own preferences and aesthetics. In addition to teaching, Daniel assists the sculptor Donald Lipski in his creation of public artwork. Daniel maintains a studio in Port Richmond.

Aviva Gomberg is a Junior at Stern Hebrew High School. She has extended her interest in art through taking various summer workshops and is interested in continuing with her artistic studies in college. She works in the mediums of pencil and paper, charcoal, pastel, oil and gouache paint.

Mordechai Rosenstein
"Young People" Protégés

Mordechai Rosenstein designs watercolors based on the ancient art of Hebrew calligraphy. Drawing upon the inherent grace and lyrical qualities of the Hebrew alphabet, this truly gifted artist embellishes the letters and gives them a special rhythm and excitement to make virtually dance across the page.

A graduate of Akiba Hebrew Academy and the Philadelphia College of Art, Rosenstein's work emanates a timeless energy that appeals to buyers of ages and tastes. Not to mention that of gallery owners, museum curators and collectors worldwide.

For the past 30 years, Rosenstein has been designing and selling prints, and has worked on special projects with many organizations including, Hadassah, the Jewish National Fund, State of Israel Bonds, and American Jewish Committee.

In addition, Rosenstein's designs have been commissioned for synagogue interiors and Jewish Community Centers stained glass windows and Torah mantels. The Franklin Mint commissioned original designs from Rosenstein for Hanukah coins and he has designed stamps for the country of Curacao. His work has been presented to leaders throughout the world including, President George Bush, Menachem Begin, and Supreme Court Justice Briar, and Pope Benedict XVI.

My approach is one of collaboration. I provide a simple border and the young people bring enthusiasm, unbridled passion and the urge to create. I give them very little instruction as they are always anxious to get started! I do show a quick sample but tell them they may use any style or any colors they feel suits the project. The photographs show the results and speak for themselves. I just hope I leave a real feeling of joy and love for Hebrew Calligraphy and the aleph bet.

Philip Zuchman
Deborah Gross-Zuchman, Protégé

Born in New York City, Zuchman has been on his own since age 14. At 18 he paddled a 14-foot kayak 2,000 miles to the Carolina Sea Islands. Until the age of 26, he immersed himself in Philosophy (BA CUNY), and writing. He was awarded the National College Poetry Fellowship, The Peter Pauper Press Award, and had a play produced in Monterey, California, where he served as a psychological researcher in the Army. Zuchman studied at the Art Student's League with Art Foster in 1970 and received the Salmagundi Young Artists Scholarship from 1971 to 1975. He lived on a farm in Walden, Vermont and earned a MA in painting from Goddard College in 1973. Philip Zuchman is a Professor of Studio Art and Aesthetics at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. He has served as Vice President of Artists Equity and The Philadelphia Water Color Society and is a "Cultural Ambassador" with the U.S. Department of State. Zuchman has exhibited in over twenty countries and across the United States

Deborah Gross-Zuchman, a Philadelphia painter, received her Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from Temple University and a Master's Degree in Painting from the Goddard Graduate Program of Norwich University. She was an Art Demonstration Teacher and taught in the Philadelphia Public Schools for thirty-five years. At present, she is a Project

Manager for the Restorative Justice Program at the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program.

Gross-Zuchman travels each summer with her husband, Philip Zuchman, also a painter, to various places in the United States and abroad to paint, en plein air, the landscape and to learn about other cultures.

In the studio, Gross-Zuchman concentrates on the technique of collage, using cut up papers that she has painted with an array of beautiful colors creating interesting and surprising effects with the brush and the palette knife. The subject matter ranges from abstract to figurative to representational.

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