

ART REVIEW: Two shows to see on Rocky Neck

Monday Posted Aug 22, 2016 at 8:40 PM

Updated Aug 22, 2016 at 8:40 PM

The Cape Ann Sisterhood, artists who met because of their connection to the NSAA, and who have socialized and shared their work through 15 years of friendship, could tell stories of their long relationship that transcends their work. For now, the five dozen or so paintings that will hang at the NSAA through Sept. 18 detail their dedication to their craft. At Rocky Neck's Cultural Center, the artists in Ellen Wineberg's juried "A Visual Feast" may not be linked socially, but show many individual works that encourage viewers to further explore the artist's body of work. More than two dozen artists show works ranging from oils to pastels to mixed media and sculpture.

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

If you go...

WHAT: A Visual Feast, at Rocky Neck Cultural Center, and Cape Ann Sisterhood at North Shore Art Association

WHERE: Cultural Center at Rocky Neck, 6 Wonson St., Gloucester; and North Shore Art Association, 11 Pirate's Lane, Gloucester

WHEN: Visual Feast through Sept. 11; Cape Ann Sisterhood through Sept. 18

TICKETS: Both shows are free. Visit www.nsarts.org or call 978-283-1857, or www.rockyneckartcolony.org or call 978-515-7004.

A modest collection of paintings in the Gordon Grant Room of the North Shore Art Association reflects only one aspect of the artists involved.

The Cape Ann Sisterhood, artists who met because of their connection to the NSAA, and who have socialized and shared their work through 15 years of friendship, could tell stories of their long relationship that transcends their work. For now, the five dozen or so paintings that will hang at the NSAA through Sept. 18 detail their dedication to their craft.

Trudy Allen, Anne Demeter, Pamela Hibbard Giarratana, Bonnie Gray, Judythe Evans Meagher, Judy Metcalfe, Janice Turner and Andrea van Gestel form the current sisterhood, which has seen fellow artists Carleen Muniz and Connie Mullen pass away.

It's a lively exhibition, all paintings. Metcalfe's half-a-dozen or so watercolors are without a doubt the best in show. Carefully formed works, mostly floral arrangements, Metcalfe paints unpretentious still lifes that reveal sharp detail and subtle color harmony. When she breaks from her usual subject matter, "Harbor View," a red barn-side depiction also packed with detailed visual information, she adds to her inviting catalog.

At Rocky Neck's Cultural Center, the artists in Ellen Wineberg's juried "A Visual Feast" may not be linked socially, but show many individual works that encourage viewers to further explore the artist's body of work. More than two dozen artists show works ranging from oils to pastels to mixed media and sculpture.

Most striking is a stylized acrylic landscape, "No Guard on Duty," by Cambridge-based painter Christopher Firger. Nearby, Lorraine Sullivan's mixed media booklet, "Lessons Learned," invites visitors to flip (gently) the artist's fanciful narrative about bicycles loved and lost — a story set with old-timey materials that add to the bygone luster.

Susan Blatt's large mixed media "Red Road 2" creates an abstract, imagined landscape, and Timothy Wilson's large four-color photograph, "Grand Manan," lures viewers with a similar effect — you can tell they're landscapes, but you can also tell that depicting a landscape was not the artist's primary concern. Karen McCarthy's "Deliberate Wanderings, #11," is a deliciously textured mixed media, with seemingly hand-sewn abstractions that create a dark but alluring combination of images.

“A Visual Feast” runs through Sept. 11 at the Cultural Center; visit www.rockyneckartcolony.org or call 978-515-7004. “Cape Ann Sisterhood” runs through Sept. 18 at the North Shore Art Association; visit www.nsarts.org or call 978-283-1857.

Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR’s ARTery. Follow @PowersKeith; email to keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com

ART REVIEW: Two shows to see on Rocky Neck

Monday Posted

Aug 22, 2016 at 8:40 PM

Updated Aug 22, 2016 at 8:40 PM

The Cape Ann Sisterhood, artists who met because of their connection to the NSAA, and who have socialized and shared their work through 15 years of friendship, could tell stories of their long relationship that transcends their work. For now, the five dozen or so paintings that will hang at the NSAA through Sept. 18 detail their dedication to their craft. At Rocky Neck's Cultural Center, the artists in Ellen Wineberg's juried "A Visual Feast" may not be linked socially, but show many individual works that encourage viewers to further explore the artist's body of work. More than two dozen artists show works ranging from oils to pastels to mixed media and sculpture.

By Keith Powers / Correspondent

If you go...

WHAT: A Visual Feast, at Rocky Neck Cultural Center, and Cape Ann Sisterhood at North Shore Art Association

WHERE: Cultural Center at Rocky Neck, 6 Wonson St., Gloucester; and North Shore Art Association, 11 Pirate's Lane, Gloucester

WHEN: Visual Feast through Sept. 11; Cape Ann Sisterhood through Sept. 18

TICKETS: Both shows are free. Visit www.nsarts.org or call 978-283-1857, or www.rockyneckartcolony.org or call 978-515-7004.

A modest collection of paintings in the Gordon Grant Room of the North Shore Art Association reflects only one aspect of the artists involved.

The Cape Ann Sisterhood, artists who met because of their connection to the NSAA, and who have socialized and shared their work through 15 years of friendship, could tell stories of their long relationship that transcends their work. For now, the five dozen or so paintings that will hang at the NSAA through Sept. 18 detail their dedication to their craft.

Trudy Allen, Anne Demeter, Pamela Hibbard Giarratana, Bonnie Gray, Judythe Evans Meagher, Judy Metcalfe, Janice Turner and Andrea van Gestel form the current sisterhood, which has seen fellow artists Carleen Muniz and Connie Mullen pass away.

It's a lively exhibition, all paintings. Metcalfe's half-a-dozen or so watercolors are without a doubt the best in show. Carefully formed works, mostly floral arrangements, Metcalfe paints unpretentious still lifes that reveal sharp detail and subtle color harmony. When she breaks from her usual subject matter, "Harbor View," a red barn-side depiction also packed with detailed visual information, she adds to her inviting catalog.

At Rocky Neck's Cultural Center, the artists in Ellen Wineberg's juried "A Visual Feast" may not be linked socially, but show many individual works that encourage viewers to further explore the artist's body of work. More than two dozen artists show works ranging from oils to pastels to mixed media and sculpture.

Most striking is a stylized acrylic landscape, "No Guard on Duty," by Cambridge-based painter Christopher Firger. Nearby, Lorraine Sullivan's mixed media booklet, "Lessons Learned," invites visitors to flip (gently) the artist's fanciful narrative about bicycles loved and lost — a story set with old-timey materials that add to the bygone luster.

Susan Blatt's large mixed media "Red Road 2" creates an abstract, imagined landscape, and Timothy Wilson's large four-color photograph, "Grand Manan," lures viewers with a similar effect — you can tell they're landscapes, but you can also tell that depicting a landscape was not the artist's primary concern. Karen McCarthy's "Deliberate Wanderings, #11," is a deliciously textured mixed media, with seemingly hand-sewn abstractions that create a dark but alluring combination of images.

"A Visual Feast" runs through Sept. 11 at the Cultural Center; visit www.rockyneckartcolony.org or call 978-515-7004. "Cape Ann Sisterhood" runs through Sept. 18 at the North Shore Art Association; visit www.nsarts.org or call 978-283-1857.

Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR's ARTery. Follow @PowersKeith; email to keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com