



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

Brighter lives through art.



Artist Biographies and Statements

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Exhibition Description:

MASTER'S SHOWCASE

JANUARY 6 – FEBRUARY 4, 2023

HAC welcomes those artists who won a Best in Show and/or Honorable Mention from 2021 and 2022 exhibits; A Time for Reflection, Bold Movements, and Uncommon Threads.

Artist Websites/Social Media Handles:

Ron Becker: rbeckerart.com

Amanda Burns: amandaburnsart.com, [@thescifisciren](https://www.instagram.com/thescifisciren)

Tom Cabrera: tomcabrera.com

Pauline Chiarelli: [@pchiarelli.images](https://www.instagram.com/pchiarelli.images), womensharingart.org/artistgallery/pauline-chiarelli//artistgallery/paulinechiarelli

Oksana Danziger: oksanafiberstudio.com

Conor Hartman: IG and Website conorhart.art

Elif Koch: elifkoch.com

Cindy Russell: [@cindyssewingstash](https://www.instagram.com/cindyssewingstash)

Kim Svoboda: [@kimsvoboda](https://www.instagram.com/kimsvoboda)

Mary Jane van Zeijts: maryjane268.com



Ron Becker



Portal
Oil, 25 " x 31 "
NFS



Sanctuary
Acrylic, 19" x 25"
\$2,000



Crab Nebula II
Oil, 24" x 30"
\$3,850

Bio:

Raised in western New York, Ron's talent was supported and nurtured by his parents and teachers. He majored in art at Niagara County Community College, helping to solidify techniques in drawing and painting. His work has been exhibited in galleries on Long Island, the RIVAA Gallery in NYC, two solo exhibitions at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Great River, NY and at galleries in NJ, MI, TX and VA. He has won several awards in juried shows and has painted murals in health care settings, Long Island schools and for the Town of Babylon at Cedar Beach and in Deer Park.

Artist Statement:

The works selected for this exhibit reflect subject matter that excites my soul due to the natural beauty found around us. "Portal" is from an arboretum located in Arizona. It drew me in and surrounded me with mystery. "Sanctuary" is from the campus of Colgate University. Standing in the shadows of the forest, looking out on the lit meadows, placed me in a cocoon of peace and gratitude. "Creation II" is from the cosmos and reminds me of how small and insignificant we are in all of the universe.



Amanda Burns



Stolen Purity
Acrylic, Fabric, Pins,
Embroidery Floss, 36" x 24"
\$1,200

Artist Statement:

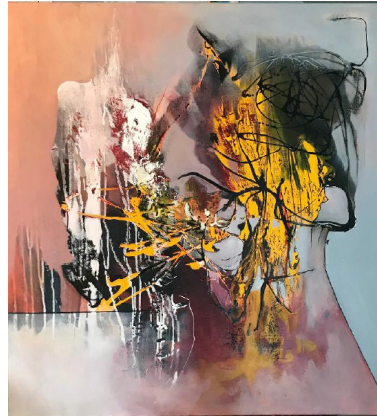
Being one of the first kids in my peer group to go into puberty meant that I experienced a lot of things on my own or with friends who didn't know what I was going through. I was processing my body becoming something that was terrifyingly at odds with my religious beliefs. I was turning into someone who looked like a sinner and there wasn't anything that I could do to stop it. This body shouldn't belong to me yet. I was made to feel like it was my fault. Like I wanted to look more mature than I was and that I should want the attention I was getting. To add to this, I was very devout and immersed with purity culture. With a fervor and earnestness that only a child can accomplish I set to cut myself off from my own body. My body was not for my own pleasure, it was a temptation for others, a danger to other men and boys who, if not for me, would have been able to stay righteous. That message in particular is what is so insidious, but I didn't question it at the time, why I should be responsible for the crimes committed against me. I just went about and cut myself off from my physical self with all of the finesse of an unsupervised child and a pair of safety scissors, until that magic day I found the only man I was allowed to give myself to. If I hadn't started to set aside those beliefs, I would still not be allowed to love myself. am left with the scars of the hasty alterations and adjustments of that unsupervised child and her unexamined beliefs, fears and responsibilities.



Tom Cabrera



Number 316
Acrylic on Canvas, 28 " x 22"
\$1,000



Number 315
Acrylic on Canvas, 36" x 36"
\$3,200



Number 237
Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 30"
\$900

Bio:

Tom Cabrera is a musician and visual artist living in Westbury NY. He has been a professional drummer for over forty years, primarily in the area of jazz and improvised music. He is a partner in an independent record label, Unseen Rain Records, distributed globally. He didn't begin painting until his 62nd year but has been quite prolific and produced nearly 500 paintings in the past four years. His abstract works have been featured on the covers of numerous recordings.

Artist Statement:

My paintings expose and explore an unseen consciousness beneath the surface of awareness — both my own and that of my audience. My work has been enhanced immeasurably by the forty plus years I spent as a professional jazz musician. To me, brush strokes on canvas are rhythm and in many ways I consider my art to be a process of painting music. Like the best jazz, it's about improvising within the discipline of a contextual structure. My approach is spontaneous. When I paint, I don't have a plan and I'm not sure where each painting is going until it's underway. If I tried to imagine what I wanted to paint beforehand, it would stop my creative process cold. I work mostly with acrylic and might begin a piece with either a color or a shape. From there, I follow what I see in front of me and then go wherever it leads. I often move back and forth between my easel and my drum kit as the creative process unfolds. (In fact, I have a series of paintings that were created using drummers' brushes instead of paint brushes!) Artists like Miró, Chagall, Matisse, and Basquiat have influenced my style but musicians like John Coltrane have informed my sensibilities, as well. My paintings have been described as dreamlike, expressing a gestalt rather than a traditional understanding of concept. As an artist, that's a response I appreciate and embrace.



Pauline Chiarelli



The Sisters Sanctuary
Photography, 22" x 26"
\$450



Low Tide
Photography, 26" x 22"
\$450



ART
Photography, 12" x 14"
\$325

Bio:

Grateful commuting and her professional years in corporate America are behind her Pauline then expanded her concentration in photography and digital art. She became an active artist and board member of both Women Sharing Art, Inc. and Huntington Camera Club. Pauline's artwork has been exhibited at a several locations throughout Long Island and is grateful that once again her work is exhibited by Huntington Arts Council.

Artist Statement:

"For me, a quiet seems to take hold whenever I grab my camera. Each of these images shows the my fascination with texture, the ethereal power of light captured in a swift moment of concentration and reverence.

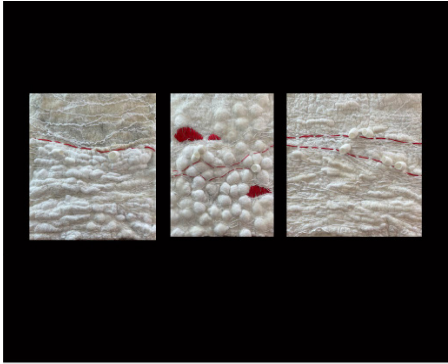
"The Sisters Sanctuary"" was captured during the pandemic where five friends, all women photographers, planned a day to step away from all that. The joy of their company, the spirit of our companionship and support is one empowering memory I cherish when I reflect upon this image.

"Low Tide"" provides us with a glimpse of a boat restoration facility at the Long Island Maritime Museum. At that time the easterly portion of the new building was not enclosed and we literally leaned in to see what was inside. A simple, effective way to maneuver boats in for repairs as long as there is a good high tide of course!

"ART"" was a happy accident from our visit to a herb farm in Peconic, outside of Riverhead. Each letter had to be forged from the floor and random baskets yet all together it lent heART to the random neglected finds in the barn."



Oksana Danziger



Winter Landscape Triptych

Nuno Felting

20" x 60"

\$500

Bio:

Oksana Danziger is a natural-born creator with a passion for textile art. She works as a freelance textile artist for numerous studios - including Printfolio, Design Works International, and Group Four. Oksana also teaches at the Art League of Long Island and conducts workshops in schools through the Huntington Arts Council. She taught in the surface design department at The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) as an adjunct professor. Born in Moscow, Russia where she also received a classical art education from the Moscow School of Art, Oksana continued to study textile design at the Moscow State Textile University where she received a Master's Degree in 1986. Following graduation, she exhibited tapestry, silk paintings and fabric fine art collages throughout Russia's galleries and museums. In 1991, Oksana moved to New York City where she lives and works today. She's sold collections of her silk scarves at "Henri Bendel" in Manhattan and had a solo exhibition of silk paintings in Gallery One in Soho, New York. She regularly exhibits her work at the Art League of Long Island and Long Island Craft Guild. In her spare time, Oksana is a certified yoga instructor and practitioner, teaching classes at local libraries and studios. She is a huge believer in meditation, aiming to fuse her art instruction with mindfulness practice.

Artist Statement:

The decorative arts have long elevated everyday objects to works of art that lend beauty a tangible quality. As an artist, the ability to creating something beautiful with one's hands is a truly amazing feeling; beauty and art are vital to our lives, and the decorative art provide a clear demonstration of this connection. I believe that an artist is never too old to learn, and the wise artist always remains a student of art: maintaining an open mind requires a lifetime of learning. As a teacher, I continue to learn from my students and fellow artists. In keeping an open mind and continually learning, I find that nature is one of my greatest sources of artistic inspiration. With its endless and varied sources of shape, line, form, color, and composition, I believe that we can trace the history of design to a prototype based on a natural element. With our planet's ecological needs in crisis, I am hopeful that art – through its aesthetic ties to the natural world - can raise awareness about and inspire action regarding increasingly dire environmental concerns. I firmly believe that we need all the help we can muster to address the planet's currently precarious ecology. If even a fraction of my audience experiences a shift in their environmental awareness through my work, then my work is justified: never have we so urgently needed art to boldly promote a shift in consciousness to help protect the fragile health of our planet.



Conor Hartman



White on White
Cotton Thread, Silk, 14 " x 40"
\$10,000



A Hidden Behavior Pattern
Cotton Thread, Silk, 12" x 12 "
\$10,000



He Gave Me Pearls
Cotton Thread, Silk,
Freshwater Pearls, 12" x 12 "
\$10,000

Bio:

Conor a fiber artist and recent art graduate from American University who's working and living in Huntington. His work explores ideas of taste and beauty, how our material surroundings affect how we feel, and how we value labor.

Artist Statement:

Originally drawn to fiber because of its association with labor and craft, Conor is interested in how the identities of fiber artisans have shaped our ideas surrounding fiber works and how the artform has been pigeonholed. He uses certain aesthetic elements to elicit a subconscious joy response, so if the viewer is put off by the piece because of the subject matter the experience is still partially a positive one. By abstracting the pieces with color and form the images are hidden until further investigation to mimic the experience of queer people who have to remain hidden from a distance.



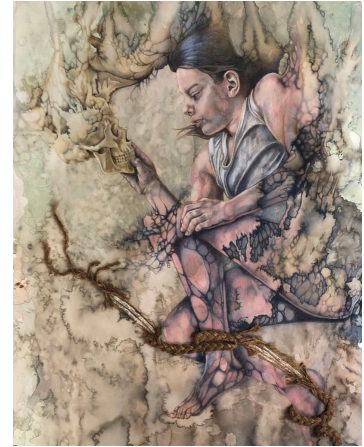
Anthony Klinger-Cooley



Emergence
Colored Pencil, Watercolor
37.5" x 29"
\$3,500



Incubation
Colored Pencil, Watercolor
42" x 31"
\$4,500



Leia Entwined
Colored Pencil, Watercolor
and Twine
37.5" x 29"

Bio:

Studied graphic design and have a BS in Visual Communications. in the late 90's I was a production artist for an advertising agency. I have been an art educator for 23 years.

Artist Statement:

I play with the human form often distorting the figure with the background. The figures are incorporated into watercolor mono-prints. I play with both the aesthetic form of the figure and the patterns from the watercolor, letting go of control, and letting the energy from the background movements take hold of the figures. The result is a dismantled form that becomes one with the background. I am open to chance letting elements fragment the form. In this way the figures are forming links with the environment around them. There is an emerging theme for me with these pieces, a commentary on our connection the world around us. We have a shared invisible connection with the universe, and these pieces are an attempt to make the invisible becomes visible. This invisible connection exists in many ways: Light and dark, life and death, the paternal connection or disconnection. The ever-changing push and pull of the chaos around us.



Elif Koch



Another Dimension
Pen/Ink and Watercolor
15" x 21"
NFS



Absolute Happiness
Oil Pastel
19" x 16"
NFS



First Dance Recital
Water Color
15" x 21"
NFS

Bio:

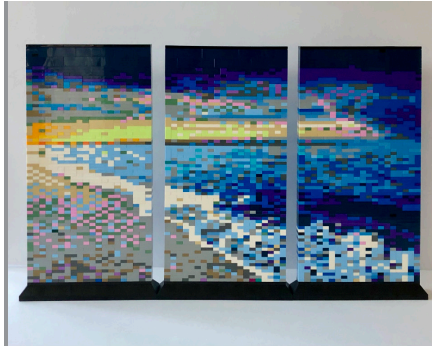
My name is Elif Koch and I am a senior at Plainview JFK high school. In my free time, I like to read and draw while listening to music. The everyday experiences, memories, and support that I have receive from my family, teachers, and friends have inspired me to continue drawing.

Artist Statement:

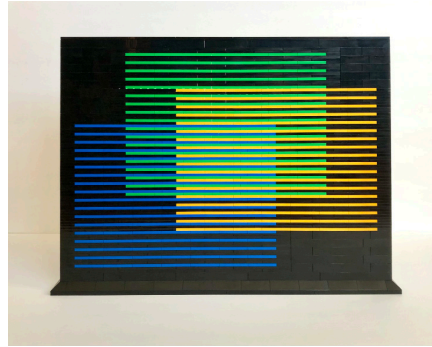
One of my favorite things to draw are portraits because there are many approaches that I can take to convey so much about that person. With "Another Dimension", I wanted to depict my love for reading by capturing the captivating power of a well-written book. Whenever I have free time, I like to pick up a book and allow myself to become fully immersed in the story, making me feel as though I am part of the interactions between the characters. With "First Dance Recital", I wanted to depict how I remember my first dance performance and how I felt as though I was floating across the stage. The swan is not only symbolic of the Swan Lake performance that we did as a class, but it also helps to further emphasize my freedom on stage. This piece is part of a larger collection of drawings that I am completing in this year for my AP Art portfolio, where I am investigating first-time memories and how the emotions we associate with those moments make them memorable. Lastly, with "Absolute Happiness" I drew my friend and her dog Fendi to depict the lasting bond between a pet and its owners.



Nicholas John Ramer



Naples Tide
LEGO™ Brick and
Plate Photo-mosaic, 21" x 10"
\$400



Consensus
LEGO™ Brick and
Plate Photo-mosaic
14.5" x 11"
\$250



Interference
LEGO™ Brick and
Plate Photo-mosaic
15.5" x 13"
\$325

Bio:

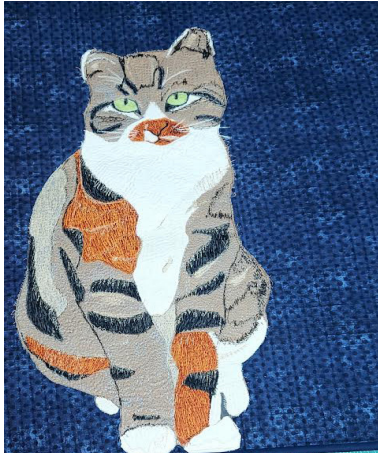
Nick Ramer had long dreamed of combining his love of photography with his childhood fascination with building, mostly with LEGO™. Using specialized computer applications and the worldwide secondary LEGO™ market, he finally executed his first LEGO™ mosaics based on photographs he took prior to the 2020 COVID lockdown. His recent mosaics are creations involving the interplay of neighboring colors.

Artist Statement:

The three pieces in this exhibit represent the different processes I use to create my LEGO™ mosaics. *Naples Tide* is based on one of my original photographs, taken on a trip to Florida in 2020. For this three-part mosaic, the photographic image was first pixelated, the output of which was then mapped onto the LEGO™ palette of colors. By adjusting the color intensity and image dithering, the original image can either be made more or less apparent. Nick likens the visual experience of this particular mosaic to the works of Seurat and Signac, masters of pointillism. One of the more interesting aspects of creating my LEGO™ photo-mosaics is how neighboring colors can cause the viewer's eye to perceive a different color than the individual colors. *Consensus* is my first mosaic that focused solely on that phenomenon. By overlapping the three component colors, a much lighter color appears at the center, much like how differing opinions can merge into a more enlightened compromise. Leaning further into this overlapping and involving more of the LEGO™ palette, *Interference* contains many more of these eye-teasers. This LEGO™ mosaic is based on interleaving quilting in which strips of different colors are laid next to each other. By displacing the LEGO™ plates relative to each other, interpenetrating waves of colors can be seen when the mosaic is viewed closely. However, when seen from a distance, the overlapping color-merging effect can be seen more dramatically.



Cindy Russell



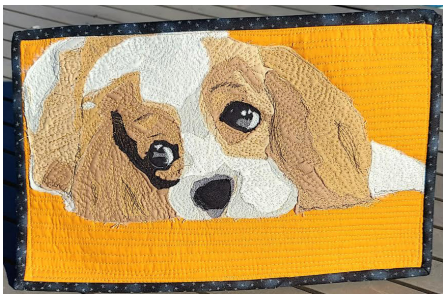
YartdCat
Raw Edge Applique, Thread
Painting, Free motion quilting,
24 1/4" x 22"
\$200



Venice
Raw Edge Applique, Thread
Painting, Free motion quilting
7 1/2" x 7"
\$125



"RBG"
Raw Edge Applique, Free
motion quilting
27" x 26"
\$325



Puppy Love
Raw Edge Applique, Free
motion quilting
9" x 14 1/4"
\$150

Bio:

Cindy Russell has been sewing and quilting for over 20 years. What started as a hobby has evolved into a creative and emotional outlet. After the Pulse Nightclub shooting, she joined the quilting community and made quilts for families of the victims. The hope was to wrap them in comfort and support. During the early days of the COVID pandemic when supplies were short, she made and donated masks to local hospitals.



Cindy Russell

Artist Statement:

“Yard Cat”

Growing up and into adulthood my pets were always dogs. I wasn't much of a cat person until this little cutie adopted me. During the summer months she would hang out in my yard every day and observe us from afar. As the weather started getting colder, I was concerned about her so I put out food and shelter, which she happily accepted. Because of her sweetness, I am now officially a crazy cat lady. This portrait quilt is replicated from a photo I took of her peeking in my backdoor, which is where she is very often. I love using fabric and thread to capture everyday moments like this.

“Venice”

When I was on recent cruise to the Mediterranean, there were clotheslines everywhere I looked. I loved the contrast the colors made with the beautiful architecture. I found myself taking photos of clothesline in each port of call. Venice was particularly special and I wanted to capture the memories. This was an opportunity to practice one point perspective drawing on fabric. After drawing, I added details and texture with thread using a free motion quilting technique.

“Puppy Love”

I made this at the time I was learning the techniques for making portrait quilts. I wanted to practice on a dog. I found an image of a cute puppy and used different shades of fabric to replicated the photo. I added texture and dimension with coordinating thread using a free motion quilting technique.

“RBG”

I was taking a portrait quilt class with the amazingly talented Luke Haynes. RBG had recently passed and she was the subject matter of the class. At the same time, my son graduated law school. I took this class because I wanted to celebrate my son's accomplishment and the amazing contributions of RBG.

Using fabric to create a true to life portrait is a very satisfying process. Making portrait quilts has become a favorite creative outlet of mine and I have made a variety of them since this learning this skill. I enjoy the challenge of making photos come to life by using color and texture.



Kim Svoboda



Stitched Vessel #3
Cotton, Felt, Organza,
Thread, Beads, 11" x 8"
NFS



Stitched Vessel #4
Cotton, Felt, Organza,
Thread, Bead
8" x 5"
\$400



Northwoods Boogie - Triptych
Stitched fabric collage, mounted
on painted stretched canvas
40" x 36"
\$2,500

Bio:

Kim Svoboda creates abstract, energetic fabric drawings and thread paintings. Not afraid to "try things out" her work is improvisational and eclectic. The results are detailed, textured, layered, often small in scale yet bold in their totality. Svoboda lives in New York City where she finds her daily walks in Central Park a great source of inspiration.

Artist Statement:

These works began with experimentation and play – digitally manipulated photos printed on fabric using a home computer – fabric "lace" made using a sewing machine and dissolvable interfacing – painted felt. With materials in hand, I then improvise -- cut, collage and stitch. Every day I walk in the park. I often go into the North Woods. Each day -- each walk -- brings new inspiration. See the dance; feel the wind; you might even hear the sounds. Come closer -- look – appreciate the difference and the mystery of each new day.



Mary Jane



Sunset over Brush
Oil on canvas,
37" x 37"
\$3,200



Friesland Series I
Oil on canvas,
37" x 37"
\$3,200



Aoife's Blue
Oil on canvas,
37" x 37"
\$3,200

Bio:

Mary Jane van Zeijts received her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her MAEd from New York University. She has taught both publicly and privately while exhibiting widely. In December 2015 she opened Studio 268 in Setauket, NY, where she teaches and shows her work, as well as the works of other artists.

Artist Statement:

In this new body of paintings I am experimenting with my original medium of oil paint and a square, larger format. By working more from life and letting go of the original image, my goal is to be more expressive while holding on to the idea of landscape, a continual inspiration for me.



Amy Goodfellow Wagner



Cold Spring Harbor #3
Oil, Wax Graphine, Oil Pastel
on paper,
15.5" x 12"
\$550



Cold Spring Harbor #4
Oil, Wax Graphine, Oil Pastel
on paper
15.5" x 12"
\$550



Cold Spring Harbor #5
Oil, Wax Graphine, Oil Pastel
on paper,
15.5" x 12"
\$550

Bio:

Amy Goodfellow Wagner received her MFA in Painting from Columbia University's School of the Arts, where she studied with and was mentored by leading American Abstract Expressionist Richard Pousette-Dart. She graduated magna cum laude with Honors in her major field of Studio Art from Wellesley College. During her junior year, she studied at the Tyler School of Art's Rome, Italy campus. An ongoing series of oil pastel drawings and oil and wax paintings on paper explores the "geometries of place." These small-scale, intimate works explore the essential nature of interior and exterior worlds through basic forms and textural blocks of color. The small scale of these works invites the viewer's close-up examination. Her work has been exhibited at the Huntington Arts Council, Huntington, NY; Islip Museum of Art, Islip, NY; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts; Gallery North, Setauket, NY; Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, Maryland; P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY; and is in numerous private collections.

Artist Statement:

The three paintings shown here are from "Cold Spring Harbor", a larger series of oil, wax, and oil pastel on paper that were inspired by the changing colors, weather, and moods of water, opposite shore, and sky as viewed looking from Cold Spring Harbor to the opposite shore. Light and color can change rapidly in a landscape and are never really "fixed." I wanted to capture this fleeting quality through a geometric framework.