

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Works by Stan Sisson, Shizuka Campagna, and Jeff Birdsill August 14 - September 8, 2004, Opening Reception Saturday, August 14th, 7-9 p.m.**

The West Milford Artists Association Gallery, located at 1443 Union Valley Road, is pleased to announce a group exhibition of works by Stan Sisson, Shizuka Campagna and Jeff Birdsill. The first of monthly exhibits at the new gallery, the works combine interpretations of past and present civilization with contemporary approaches to worked surfaces.

#### **Stan Sisson**

Stone is mystical, timeless and interwoven into the fabric of history. Ancient stone monuments, megaliths and architecture worldwide open the doors of intrigue to reflect upon and study the civilizations that created them. Stan Sisson searches into the past and explores his own questions of stone through the intriguing pieces in his Ancient Stone collection.

With his acrylic paintings and pencil drawings on pastel paper, Sisson delves into these icons of past civilizations. Each piece becomes the viewer's departure point into the mysteries of stone.

Stan Sisson lives and works in Vernon, New Jersey. A graduate of the New York School of Visual Arts, Sisson's work has been the focus of numerous individual collections.

#### **Shizuka Campagna**

A Japanese ceramicist, Shizuka Campagna expresses her deep love of nature in her creations. "Clay is my canvas. I love to paint with glazes, incorporating the art of Sumie (Japanese Brush Painting), and carving out the clay to create stories. My love of animals can be seen in my creations of my 'critter' series. My Asian heritage is reflected in every piece of my work". Campagna is deeply influenced by her cultural background.

Out of Water incorporates colorful glazes on stoneware depicting a happy fish jumping out of water illustrating the underlying connection present in her work, the bond between earth and the joys of human perception.

Past exhibitions have included "For the Love of Mud" in West Milford, NJ, "A Different View" at 1978 Art Gallery in Maplewood, NJ, The Mountainside Pottery Show in Mountainside, NJ, The Barn Art Gallery in Ringwood, NJ, The WMAA Gallery in West Milford, NJ, and The Iris Garden Ceramic Show in Montclair, NJ.

Shizuka Campagna was born in Japan in 1953 and has lived and worked in the United States since 1976. She is a member of the Potters Guild of New Jersey and one of the founding members of the West Milford Artists Association. Campagna currently teaches ceramic classes at several private and public institutions.

#### **Jeff Birdsill**

Through wood-block printing, oil painting, and assemblages of found objects (natural and man-made), Jeff Birdsill seeks to visually express daily spiritual experience. Structuring this expression around themes of nature, literature, and mythology, he strives to keep a historical perspective on the conceptual and formal aspects of fine art.

Recent exhibitions include: A One-man show at The Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey, 2003; The Integrity House Silent Auction Benefit, Short Hills Hilton, Short Hills, New Jersey, 2003; The Joyce Petter Galleries in Chicago, Ill. and Saugetuck, Michigan. Birdsill's works enhance private collections in the following cities: Rye, New York, Brooklyn, New York, New City, New York, Short Hills, New Jersey, Ridgewood, New Jersey, Chicago, Illinois, and Lexington, Kentucky.

Jeff Birdsill has worked and lived in West Milford, New Jersey since 1997. Birdsill received a Post Baccalaureate Degree from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1994, and his MFA from Pratt Institute in 1998.

For further information and requests, please contact Lin Warren at 973-728-8812 or [lwarren27@hotmail.com](mailto:lwarren27@hotmail.com)