



The West Milford Artists' Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The West Milford Artists Association Gallery

1443 Union Valley Rd, West Milford, NJ

Ph: 973-728-1119, Hrs: Tues-Fri 5:30-7:30pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12-4pm

Works by Debra Heinks-Bergerson, Allesandro Fasano, and Donie Schmidt

October 9 – November 10, 2004

Opening Reception Saturday, October 9th, 7-9 p.m.

The WMAA Gallery is pleased to announce a group exhibition of works by Debra Heinks-Bergerson, Allesandro Fasano and Donie Schmidt. In this selection of works: extravagant color, texture and form explore the realists' perception of portraiture, three-dimensional formations, and wildlife. Included also are collaborated works of the artists.

Debra Heinks-Bergerson

Incorporating an emotional edge to her subjects, Heinks explicitly divulges her own emotional expression through her portraits and her application of mediums. Beyond her free stroking of color, she wants to "create a whimsical atmosphere." "I use color, line, movement and texture for this purpose of mood enhancement." She clearly captures the essence of the individual and subject matter. Her inspiration has always been her observations of people and in their particular environment. In "Ben", the collaborative piece with Schmidt, Heinks treats the viewer to her boldness of color; yet, in contrast, a sense of quiet. The subject matter – her son and his pets – are contentedly sleeping intermingled with each other.

Debra Heinks-Bergerson holds a degree in Fine Art from Mankato State University, where she furthered her interest in Elementary Education and Special Education. She has a Connecticut-based affiliation with The Milford Art Association where she extensively exhibited her work. She is an exhibiting member of the WMAA. Her contribution to the arts has been through exhibiting her work and contributing to widespread art collections.

Allesandra Fasano

Allesandra Fasano uses clay to create time-encapsulating pieces – time belonging to the viewer. Through her use of unusual shapes and bold color and design, Fasano's vessels and bowlery redefine the concept of functional. She brings the user beyond using, allowing the art itself to overpower. Her Italian heritage is brought forth through her use of glaze and form. "My passion is to create functional objects with unusual shapes. Bright colored glazes used in many of my pieces reflect my heritage as an Italian, and bring out the unique flavor of my country." Living for a time in Argentina, she began her ceramic career when inspired by a local potter. She considers what she is doing as a lifelong dream come true. "Untitled" goes beyond being a symbol of civilization. The contrast between her line-producing texture and color produces a happy, fun feeling when viewed.

Fasano has exhibited in many shows, including The Iris Garden Show in Montclair, NJ and the Skylands Botanical Gardens Show. She studied ceramics in one of the best schools in Milan, where she moved to be with her family in 1997 and had her first private studio in England. She has lived in West Milford for two years and is a WMAA member.

Donie Schmidt

Born in Colorado and raised in New Mexico, Donie Schmidt was surrounded by natural beauty and wildlife. Through the use of pastels and a rough paper, she has boldly used layering with color to produce depth in expressing the texture of her subjects. Her earlier works reflected the use of acrylics, oils and watercolors, which lead her to her primary medium: "Pastels have become a passion. They have a wonderful array of colors and textures. I love that the only tools I need are my fingers. My favorite subjects to paint are animals and I always start with the eyes. That is the soul of the animal and of my work"

While on a Wagon Train trip in North Dakota, Schmidt found her inspiration for "Tender Care", capturing a little girl and her grandfather exploring the meadows together. The expanse and detailed texture of the background confirms the emotional content of the piece. Frank Howell and Robert Redbird, artists from the southwest, inspired Donie's interest. Their use of bold color and extravagant subject matter gave her the impetus to follow her path. Self-taught until moving to New Jersey, she met Milton Patterson of the Wyckoff Art Gallery and found her potential and love of creating art. Since moving to West Milford, Donie pursues her studies with Jean Kelley and Vince Heuring.

Donie continues to explore the world of different artistic avenues going from small detailed paintings on feathers to Trompe L'Oeil, a style of painting that gives the appearance of 3-dimensional realism. Donie is a member of the WMAA and Ringwood Manor Association of The Arts.

For further information and requests, please contact Lin Warren at 973-728-8812 or lwarren27@hotmail.com