

Art walk

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 Arts Council had to swoop in this past week with brooms, mops, hammers and nails. The undertaking proved such a surprising success the past two years – attracting artists and art appreciators from across the region – that the preparations for it are even being chronicled by a documentary film crew this year, said Donata Anna, council director.

The Hoboken group arrived Saturday to begin hanging and installing the pieces for the exhibit. Cohen said the artists were overjoyed at being able to “bang nails wherever we like” and make use of the high ceilings and vast rooms to display their work.

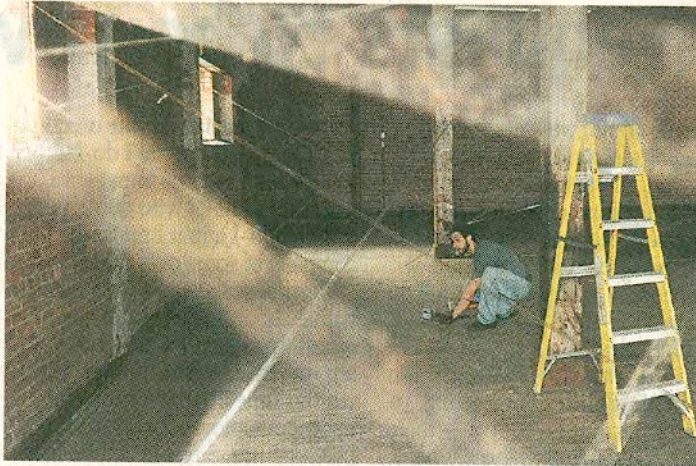
“We’re not as inhibited as we might be in a commercial art space,” she said.

Some artists participating in the event were even moved to make the aging remnants of the city’s once-vibrant industrial past a focal point of their work.

Joseph Gerard Sabatino, an artist who’s had his studio in Paterson for 11 years, will create a floor-to-ceiling installation inside the second floor of the Rogers building on Spruce Street, made entirely of packing tape.

Sabatino, who came up with the idea and sketched the plans after seeing the space a few weeks ago, envisions the sunlight reflecting off the tape and creating a ghostlike translucence.

He’s calling the piece “Homeless Landscapes” and will take lots of



ELIZABETH LARA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph Gerard Sabatino working on his art installation.

pictures and recordings of it before disassembling it after the event. Sabatino thinks the piece will help highlight the charged energy inside what he considers a historical piece of architecture, and he doesn’t mind all the work he’s putting into something that isn’t permanent.

“Even if it’s short-lived, people will remember it for some time to come, and I hope reflect on it,” said Sabatino, speaking of both his work and the art walk itself.

The event will incorporate many of the city’s historically significant landmarks among its roughly 30 locations – including the newly christened Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park, City Hall, the Paterson Museum, the library and a few local restaurants.

Though the event is only a day long, Anna believes that the weeks of preparation leading up to it, and the resulting eclectic displays and performances, will leave a lasting stamp on a city that has tried for

decades to recover from the demise of its once-legendary silk industry and manufacturing base.

“The energy of this event comes from the transforming of the spaces and the community for the art,” said Anna, who hopes that the city’s growing numbers of artists can help drive a renaissance in the same way artists have in other urban areas.

“We believe there can continue to be more transformations of this city, and that the artists can help lead them.”

Last year’s art walk brought hundreds to the city, and Jamie Dykes, president of the Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce, said the business community appreciated how many of them “looked and acted like tourists.”

“It really is a way to let the surrounding areas know that Paterson is a center for the arts,” Dykes said.

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PATERSON

Diverse streets shape canvas

Artists say city life energizes their work

By DENISA R. SUPERVILLE
Herald News

PATERSON — Walter Eres finds inspiration from the scene outside his third-floor loft on Colt Street.

"Each time you paint, you see something different," said Eres, 60, a painter and composer. On a recent morning, he stood before his easel painting a small canvas with quick strokes. "It's something that grabs you, that inspires you to paint. You could be looking at the same scene, but each time something different in the scene would inspire you, so you would focus on that."

Paterson also is the canvas for Don Kommit, president of Ivanhoe Artists Mosaic Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 2006 to help local artists.

"The buildings, the architecture of Paterson, the landscape, the river, the mountain, the castle — it's a classic kind of European city that we have in Paterson," said Kommit, who started creating art at age 5 by tracing with carbon paper.

Karenann Sinocchi is a fine-art photographer who has been behind the lens since she fell in love with a black and white photograph her friend took in high school.

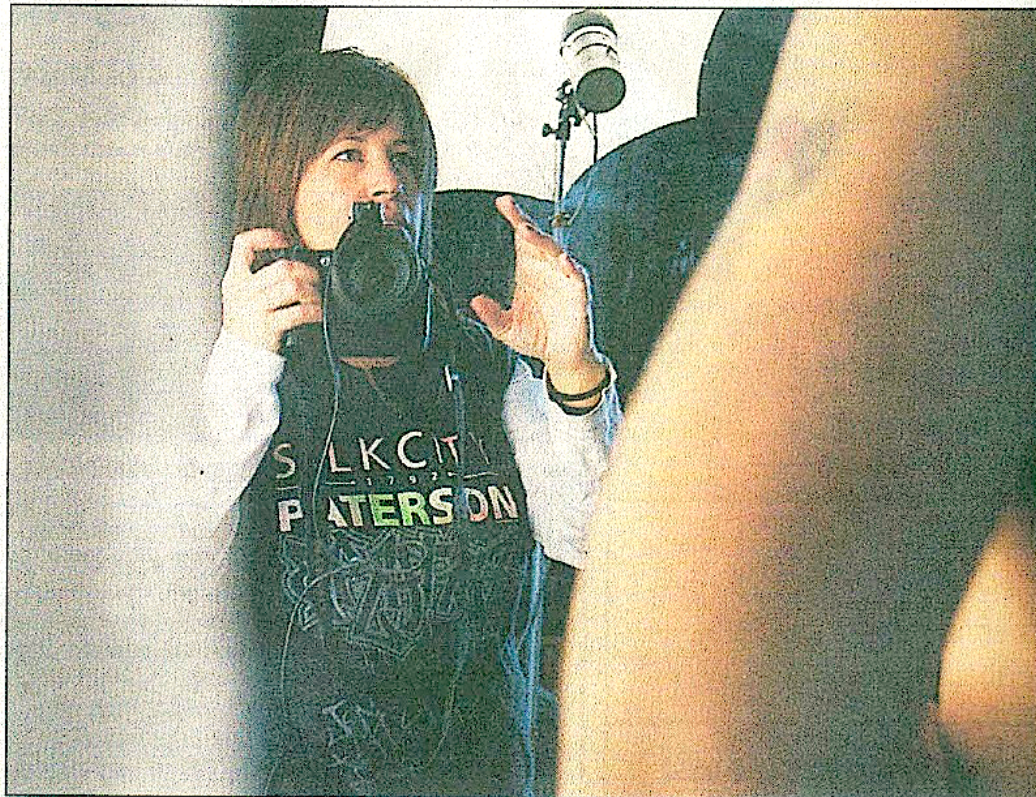
"I was transfixed by the black and white image, by the grains," Sinocchi said. "It just pulled me in. Looking at that photograph, I was just really interested in learning how to take pictures and make pictures."

Eres, Kommit and Sinocchi represent a portion of the artists in this city who live here and who are, for the most part, not household names for many Patersonians. Some have made movies, had their paintings and sculptures shown at local and New York City galleries, and their bands have played along the Northeast coast.

Eres, who has lived in Paterson for about 33 years, is regarded by many of his peers as one of the best artists in the city. His painting of the Great Falls has been turned into postcards.

Eres makes a living with seasonal work painting parade floats for \$20 an hour at

The artists at work



Karenann Sinocchi directs Jose Hernandez Jr. at her studio in Prospect Park. "I've got water all around," said Sinocchi, who attended William Paterson University. "This is what's supposed to be. This is my life path."



Mixed media artist Joseph Sabatino applies a torch to a ceramic vessel at his Paterson as part of a work titled "Lost Innocence."

Basic skills teaching positions at stake

By JENNIFER H. CUNNINGHAM
Herald News

CLIFTON SCHOOL ELECTIONS

CLIFTON – New band uniforms, replacing high school lockers and five new teaching positions may face the chopping block after voters overwhelmingly rejected a

\$109 million school tax levy earlier this week.

Those items in the \$139.9 million budget are part of the small

portion of district spending that the Board of Education had control over. The rest – some \$108 million for contractual salaries, benefits and pensions – are fixed costs.

Now, the City Council will meet with the Board of Education next

INSIDE

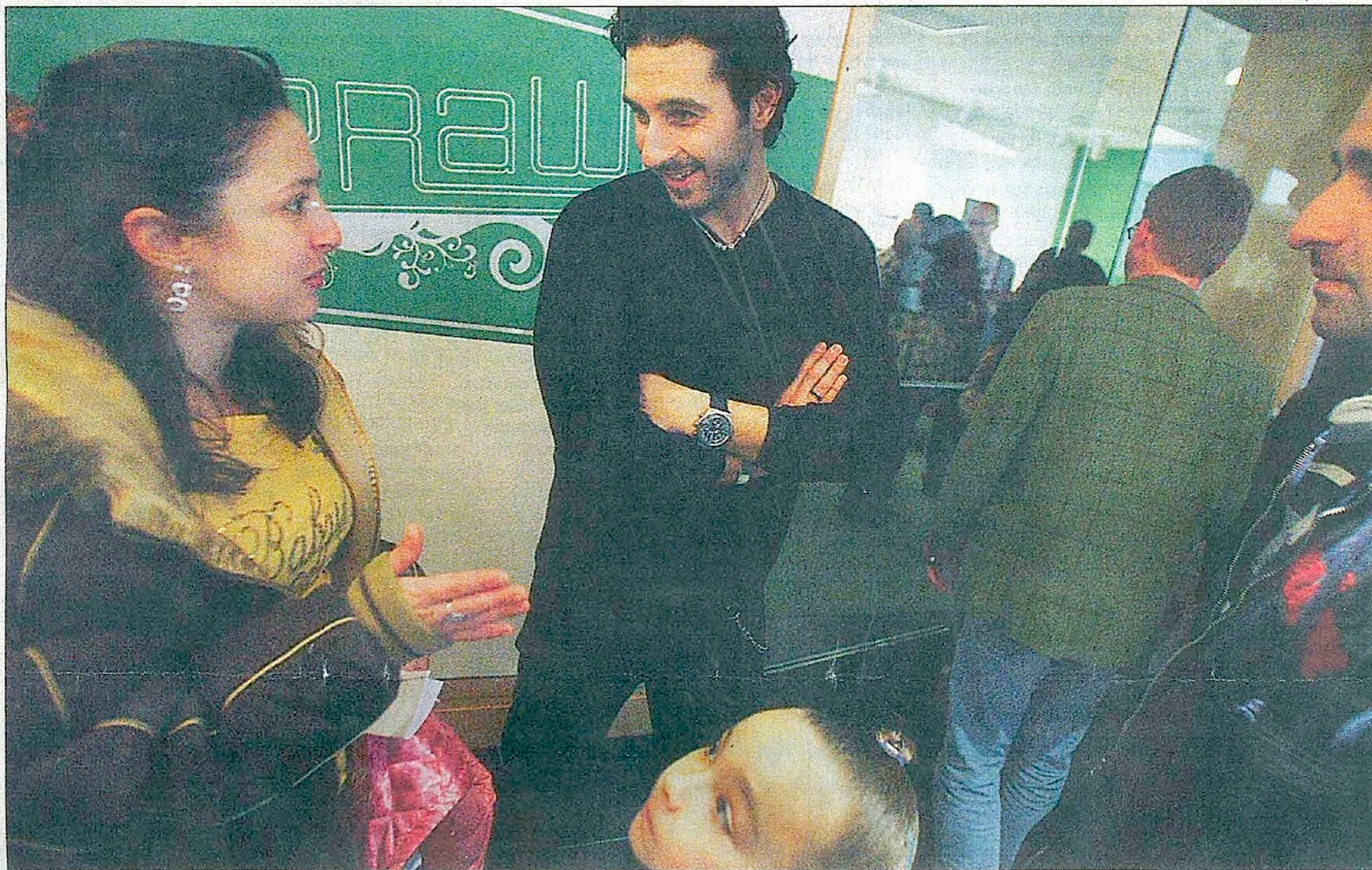
Lawmaker seeks end to public vote on school budgets. B4

month before cutting a dollar amount.

“The school budget is now in the City Council’s hands,” Board

of Education lawyer Anthony D’Elia said. “They will decide what to cut and what not to cut.”

When a school tax levy is rejected, the council reviews the budget and may order a cut in the tax and recommend items in the budget to trim. Or, the council can leave the budget as is. D’Elia said the meeting between the school board and council will most like-



MICHAEL KARAS/Herald News

At the Jersey City Art Museum, Joseph Gerard Sabatino, center, discusses his work with friends Gina Conte, left, and Joe Pignataro, right. Pignataro's daughter, Allyssa, 5, looks on. Sabatino says his work is drawn from his own experiences, which include making sausage and working construction.

Saturday,
April 19, 2008

Food FOR thought

Artist says his concepts are far from half-baked

By DENISA R. SUPERVILLE
Herald News

PATERSON – How could something that is supposed to be so delectable be so toxic?

That is one of the questions Paterson artist Joseph Gerard Sabatino hopes viewers will contemplate when they view his work on display at the “Currents” exhibit through Sunday at William Paterson University’s Ben Shahn Center for the Visual Arts.

They include a collection of small black cupcakes and a cake made from sugar poured over industrial-grade cement, torched for up to 15 seconds until it is caramelized, and then topped with liquid tar. Sabatino’s methods are not dissimilar to how a chef would mix ingredients for

a much more edible concoction, and the end result has a similar form, if not color. The cupcakes are presented on dainty, white porcelain plates. He wants you to think about everyday objects around you.

Sabatino, 30, finds inspiration in those everyday things: tar, cement, custom-made stainless steel elevator doors, sausage and flour dough. The materials all have reference points in his life, from the days he spent making homemade Italian sausages in his parents’ Belleville home to his teenage years working at pizza joints and doing odd jobs at construction and landscaping companies, he said.

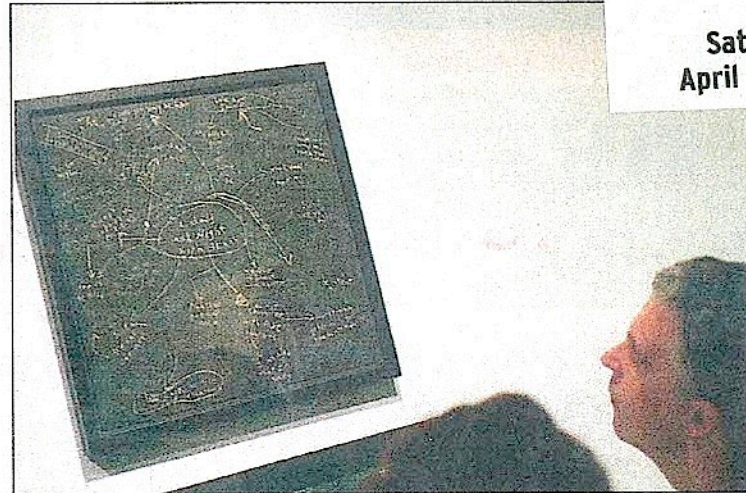
“The works go anywhere from revolting, disgusting, toxic, to cute, docile, tempting and beautiful,” said Sabatino, a philosopher-quoting

artist who likes to say he “escaped” from photography, his major at Montclair State University.

For an artist still trying to make money from his work, Sabatino is having a good year. In addition to the exhibit at William Paterson University, Sabatino has two drawings featured in the show “SPRAWL” at the Jersey City Museum.

Sabatino left earlier this month for a guest residency program in Layton, Sussex County, at the Peters Valley Craft Center, one of two such competitive grant-funded stays he will participate in this year to give him time to work without interruptions from the outside world.

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MICHAEL KARAS/Herald News

In a piece entitled “A Day and Night With Glass,” Sabatino says, he used everyday objects to make an artistic statement.