



2007 New Jersey Arts Annual: Fine Arts

The Noyes Museum of Art

April 17-July 15, 2007

Introduction

It was a great pleasure to be given the task of judging the 2007 New Jersey Arts Annual. As might be expected from an open statewide competition, the entries encompassed an enormous range of media, styles and subjects. It was particularly gratifying to find that a considerable proportion of the works were of a rather high level of achievement. Indeed, the latitude of expression available to contemporary art practice received quite a good representation. From works focusing on mastery of traditional technique to those highlighting inventive applications of unusual materials, from images of the everyday to evocations of the disturbing or bizarre, this Arts Annual set before the reviewer a bountiful cornucopia of formats and ideas.

There were many worthy entries that ultimately did not appear in the final presentation. To those who are not represented in the exhibition, please note that open competitions of any sort are, to a good extent, a matter of chance. Objectivity and open-mindedness must be foremost when judging this type of exhibition. But even the most dedicated observers have individual interests and tastes, and any final selection is inevitably a reflection of a complex interplay within a vast spectrum of artistic expressions that is funneled through a specific eye and mind at a given time. Thus, the current exhibition merely hints at the full panoply of art that paraded past this year's reviewing stand.

Visitors are encouraged to appreciate a remarkable diversity of aesthetic visions. With the artistic production of New Jersey barreling along with such a vital concentration of talent, both viewers and artists can absorb this exhibition and then look forward with anticipation to future incarnations of the Arts Annual.

- Jeffrey Wechsler, Senior Curator, Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University

Message from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

On behalf of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts we congratulate the artists represented in the 2007 New Jersey Annual Exhibition of Fine Arts. We are all enriched by the work of artists who help us to see the world and its possibilities in new ways. We are doubly blessed to have so many fine artists call New Jersey home. The New Jersey Arts Annual exhibition series continues to serve as an important forum for them, both in fine arts and in crafts. And the Council is proud to co-sponsor this outstanding exhibit with The Noyes Museum of Art.

The Arts Annual series is one of many ways that the Council supports the work and advancement of New Jersey artists. The Council awards fellowships, provides technical assistance, co-sponsors showcase opportunities, hosts a virtual gallery on the www.jerseyarts.com web site and provides grants and incentives to arts organizations both to showcase and better serve New Jersey artists. The Council also manages the Arts Inclusion program, through which artists work to create innovative artwork for our State buildings.

The Council applauds the six participating museums: the Jersey City Museum, the Montclair Art Museum, The Morris Museum, The Newark Museum, the New Jersey State Museum and The Noyes Museum of Art for their support and commitment to the work of New Jersey artists featured in the Arts Annual exhibition series. And we particularly want to thank the Board of The Noyes Museum, Director Michael Cagno, curator of the exhibition Dorrie Papademetriou and Jeffrey Wechsler, guest juror for the magnificent job accomplished in mounting this very special exhibition.

Carol Herbert, Chair

David A. Miller, Executive Director

Tom Moran, Senior Program Officer, Artist Services

Joseph Gerard Sabatino

"Like a child that crawls, walks, or simply stares while ingesting his or her everyday surroundings, my interest is similarly fueled by this effortless act of acknowledgment, observing the obscurities of daily occurrences.

Natural and undiluted, a young person's attentiveness to a world within his or her reach diminishes in adulthood. In this mystery, I seek to tie the vulnerabilities, wonders and doubts of a child, amidst the intricacies of an adult. With the familiarities of common objects, memories of the past and present are once again accessible, altering a brief moment into an extension of time. My artwork involves the usage of ordinary materials such as: caramelized sugar, dough, spices, dirt and intestine with those of industrial and institutional products, creating three-dimensional wall reliefs and sculptures. Various materials are utilized, through either outside fabrication, personal manipulation or both. At a time and place where the world seems to exist virtually at a speed similar to light, it should equally be our concern to recall the simplicity through the eyes of a child, once again revealing reality's hidden sensibilities."



Midnight Snack, 2006,
mixed media, 13 x13 x7



The Power of the Pied Piper, 2004,
discarded clothing, 49 x 48

Linda Friedman Schmidt

"I am a self taught portraitist and figurative expressionist. My art is about the human condition examined through my own emotional experiences and life history. My medium, discarded clothing, represents the 'second skin'. This skin is the sign of our transformability, our ability to become other.

Fashion is often used to create a false self. Looking at the notion that clothes make the person, or you are what you wear, I deconstruct what I have been wearing, layers of psychological trauma, and transform them to discover my true self, the person I always wanted to be.

I am piecing together and repairing the fabric of my life, achieving peace by piecing together a new world. I am condensing old clothes, photographs, images in my head, and a lifetime of feelings. I am putting together the pieces that make up the patterns of my soul, coming to know who I am. My work is a celebration of color, texture and handwork. There is joy, peace and love in the process of creation. This is my spiritual journey, immersed in every detail, experiencing the pleasure of the now, the hands working, moving in a steady rhythm, the rhythm of life."