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BY EMILY KRATZER
THE JOURNAL NEWS • SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

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Works created from sea to shining sea, and overseas, are taking up many small parts of every wall at the Hopper House Art Center.

The 59 works, each less than 12 inches square, have traveled to Nyack from as far away as California, Texas and Canada and as near as Nyack, Spring Valley and Blauvelt.



Carole Perry, executive director of the Hopper House Art Center, prepares for the 15th annual Small Matters of Great Importance exhibit. (Photos by Vincent DiSalvo/The Journal News)



Artwork by Sharon Florin.

IF YOU GO

What: 15th annual Small Matters of Great Importance Exhibit

Who: Janet Amalfitano, Jamie Andrew, Rachel Burgess, Anthony Campbell, Marilyn Cvitanic, Christina Day, Claudia Drake, Kurt Dyrhaug, Sharon Florin, Marilyn Gelfand, Nancy Gibbs, Robert Glaisek, Arthur Gunther III, Johann Heffner, Lila Horn, Mike Iskowitz, Andrew Jones, Kathy Kuryla, Anni Lorenzini, Leigh Merrill, Nancy Nichols, Chung Park, Natasha Rabin, Deborah Ragasto, Mary Ann Reilly, Jana Rumberger, Nadine Sage, Sally Savage, Ursula Schneider, Sayaka Taninokuchi, Nat Thomas, Vaughn Wascovich, Josh Willis, Kimberly Witham and Win Zibeon. Juror: Tracy Bashkoff of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Where: Hopper House Art Center, 82 N. Broadway, Nyack.

When: Reception, 2-5 p.m. tomorrow; 1-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 26.

Cost: By donation.

Call: 845-358-0774.

Online: www.hopperhouse.org

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This year's Small Matters of Great Importance National Juried exhibit is curated by Tracey Bashkoff, curator for collections and exhibitions Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The exhibit opens with a reception tomorrow and will be on display through Oct. 26.

As Hopper House executive director Carole Perry refined the placement of pieces on Wednesday, she said that they are much smaller than in the past.

There are colorful palm-sized paintings by Sharon Florin of Long Island City and brooding sketches by Rachel Burgess of New York City. Christina Day's hand-sized mixed-media metal cases, one still containing a makeup sponge and powder, are

etched with seemingly shifting scenery. In her artist statement, she says that she shows the "real experience of a place that is closed off."

Americana scenes are courtesy of Vaughn Wascovich, assistant professor of photography at Texas A&M University, and Leigh Merrill of Oakland, Ca. Wascovich shows a truck in front of a closed business and a storage barn in a farm field. Merrill manipulated her "Arizona Project" pictures to give her vivid views of a canyon, city and resort only one sharp focal point. Ursula Schneider of Tomkins Cove is showing Hudson River sketches that will become larger works.

Montreal-based Marilyn Gelfand lends an international touch with her photographs "Skinny Dog" and "Gents," taken during travels in Hardwar, India. Denver's Nadine Sage brings the past to new life by using an X-acto knife and polymers on her collection of 18th and 19th century prints, creating collages centering on a turtle and a bird.

Artists from the region include Ossining's Johann Heffner, Spring Valley's Mike Iskowitz, Nyack's Natasha Rabin and Robert Glaisek and Blauvelt's Art Gunther III and Win Zibeon.

Nyack's Anthony Campbell, chairman of the Rye High School Art Department, is showing two 8-inch-by-10-inch portraits from his "The Fifty Year Bridge" series of 50 people he's met in the Nyack area.

San Francisco's Jana Rumberger bridges the generations by letting her photographs speak to her family mythology and reflect the way her beloved grandparents faded as they aged. The hard-to-discern images require the viewer to come close and absorb the sense of family history they show.

That's one of the charms of this show - the small works invite you to get close enough to experience the artists' larger statements.

Reach Emily Kratzer at ekratzer@lohud.com or 845-578-2444.

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