

Beachwood Buzz

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MAGAZINE



Seeing is Believing: 6 Beachwood Artists

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**2016
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REPORT**

Popular annual report for the
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By June Scharf



Seeing is Believing:

6 Beachwood Artists



Beachwood has many elements of which it can be proud, and certainly among them is the rich diversity of artists living and working here. To celebrate six of those individuals – Laurel Hecht, Susan Cone Porges, Beth Segal, Andrea Serafino, Shari Wolf and Kim Zarney – the Beachwood Arts Council will feature their works this month as it hosts the exhibit “Seeing is Believing: 6 Beachwood Artists.”

The show reveals an abundance of talent while also providing a rare opportunity for community members to witness a wealth of artwork in one place, with the artists present to offer deeper engagement. The artists may share their stories and explain how their passions are threaded through their creations.

“Seeing is Believing: 6 Beachwood Artists” runs March 11 – April 2 at the Beachwood Community Center, 25325 Fairmount Blvd., with an opening reception on Saturday, March 11, 5-8 pm,

when the artists will briefly discuss their work. Refreshments will be served. Gallery hours are: Monday through Friday, 10 am – 4 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm; and Sunday, 10 am – 1 pm. The exhibit is free and open to the community.

A self-guided tour of the artists’ studios will take place April 2, 1 – 4 pm, when they will offer demonstrations and additional artwork for purchase. Studio maps are located at the front desk in the Beachwood Community Center.

“The artwork at this show is rendered in a variety of media, including pastels, oil, acrylic, photography and ceramics,” says Leah Gilbert, executive director of the Beachwood Arts Council. “This is a wonderful opportunity for residents to come and see what some of their professional and highly innovative neighbors are creating.”

Discover some highlights surrounding each artist:



Laurel Hecht

Laurel’s medium is acrylic paint on canvas, wood and paper. “The act of painting – creating something tangible out of the images in my mind and what I see around me – fulfills me. I’m in love with color, and I paint in layers – three,

four or even five layers. This process could be a by-product of my initial training in printmaking.”

Art: Subject matter relates to moths, trees, flowers and other plants set in landscapes.

Training: Minneapolis College of Art and Design, earned a BFA. Two of the four years were spent studying outside London, enrolled in an international printmaking program.

Work: Exhibits in galleries nationwide.

Background: Her early work (late 1970s to mid-1980s) was mostly figurative, woman-centered, with lots of pink, but also political and spiritual. “I paint what I like, mostly nature, in flagrant color.” And she notes that she’s always been told, “Every color goes with every color.”

Studio: She works in a large studio in Commerce Park where she installed a 35 by 8-ft-drywall work wall to create several paintings simultaneously.

Inspiration: Her home gardens, magazines, the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Ithaca, NY and Santa Fe, NM.

Contact: www.lahecht.com
Facebook: Laurel Hecht Fine Art
23800 Commerce Park Drive, Suite F



Susan Cone Porges

Susan’s regularly-exhibited drawings and paintings are created with pastels, oils, watercolors and charcoal. “My sense of design and understanding of color, plus my background in realism combined with my drawing skills and attention to detail,

all allow me the freedom to capture what I want, be looser stylistically and in control of my medium.”

Art: Variety of subject matter ranging from portraits to landscapes to still life.

Training: Massachusetts College of Art in Boston with concentrations in drawing, printmaking and calligraphy.

Work: Freelance artist, calligrapher, painter, teacher and Ketubah creator. She also regularly displays her work in exhibitions and galleries. “After working for many years in oils and watercolors, I find the immediacy and tactile nature of pastels to be so satisfying.”

Background: She began private art lessons at age seven in the home studio of a Shaker Heights artist. She knew then that she was in her element, when she was introduced to pastels and still life composition. She worked for 35 years as a freelance artist and calligrapher, painter and teacher. Over the past 10 years, she has focused more on fine art over commercial art. She considers her teaching to be some of the most rewarding experiences of her career. Working alongside her students in a large studio has also enhanced her creativity.

Studio: She founded The Art Studio on Mercantile Road, which is a multi-use facility. In addition to being her personal creation space, she conducts classes and workshops with nationally known visiting artists, and also features live model days and custom framing services.

Inspiration: The Old Masters (Sargent, Degas, Sorolla, Zorn); current masters (Richard Schmidt, Alain Picard, Liz Haywood Sullivan)

Contact: www.susanporges.com
www.ketubah.com (search “susan porges”)
The Art Studio
23945 Mercantile Road, Unit 0



Beth Segal

Beth is an award-winning commercial photographer who worked for several decades specializing in food, tabletop and editorial photography with clients in Cleveland, Chicago and New York. "My subject matter varies, but right now, I'm

obsessed with still-life paintings of the Dutch Golden Age. So I'm exploring similar themes using natural and artificial elements to try to evoke and reinterpret the opulent splendor and elegant simplicity of that period's tabletop creations."

Art: Subject matter varies but she shoots still lifes and found objects using lighting as a creative element.

Training: An apprenticeship in Chicago, shooting items such as diamond rings, diaper bags and 105-piece Sears tool sets in a catalog production house.

Work: Creating photography appropriate for her burgeoning collection of antique frames, in addition to shooting images that play with light to create beauty.

Background: She began photographing gravestones in cemeteries with an old wooden Deardorff camera, using 4 x 5 inch sheet film. Now she shoots almost exclusively indoors with a Canon camera tethered to a computer for instant evaluation. Technology has transformed her process, but the work is still about rendering light to create meaningful images.

Studio: A big studio with two auxiliary rooms filled with many boxes containing a wide variety of props.

Inspiration: 20th century photographers, Paul Outerbridge and Jan Groover.

Contact: www.bethsegalphotography.com
Beth Segal Photography | Zarney Originals
23400 Mercantile Road, 7B



Andrea Serafino

Andrea's medium is ceramics. "I simply love working with clay and teaching others to realize their visions of working with clay."

Art: Subject matter for show relates to nature, specifically plant life sculpted onto traditional pottery forms such as bowls, vases and platters.

Training: Cleveland Institute of Art, ceramics major with a sculpture minor.

Work: Proprietor and instructor at the Beachwood Ceramics Guild in Commerce Park, teaching adults and children techniques for wheel throwing, hand building and sculpture. Classes are offered year-round and are listed in the Beachwood Recreation Department brochure.

Background: Andrea was drawn to her medium starting in 4th grade when students were allowed to make one clay project per year. She was thrilled to work with clay, and in high school, took two art classes per day in painting/drawing and pottery.

"I love the tactile qualities of clay and the challenging aspects of the medium, such as, can I actually create the object that I visualize. With all the steps needed to complete a piece, including drying, glazing and firing, crafting a successful piece can be quite difficult."

"I've worked through many of life's obstacles by creating ceramic translations as sculpture. My earlier works were significant in that they helped me understand the place or situation I was in at the time. There was a lot of personal growth then. After I had children, I found this self-analysis exhausting, so now, my work focuses on the peaceful aspects of nature."

Studio: It's a combination of four situations. She's either alone, working with studio mates, teaching adults or instructing students. "My students give to me and I give to them. We all come to the table with different interests and skill levels that we share knowingly and unknowingly. A lot of growth happens over time."

Inspiration: Nature, especially plants

Contact: www.beachwoodceramicguild.org
The Beachwood Ceramic Guild
23366 Commerce Park Drive

Seeing is Believing: 6 Beachwood Artists

March 11 – April 2

Beachwood Community Center • 25325 Fairmount Blvd.

Opening Reception • Saturday, March 11 • 5-8 pm.

Self-Guided Studio Tours • April 2 • 1 – 4 pm

Studio maps will be available at the front desk in the Beachwood Community Center after March 15.



Shari Wolf

Shari's range of mediums includes acrylics, colored pencils, watercolors, pastels and markers. For artisanal goods, she crafts jewelry, and works in fabric, leather and polymer clay. "I love to engage people and make them smile

when they look at my work. I sometimes add my own poetry and collage to add a sense of humor. I also love to use metallic paints and glitter."

Art: Bowls, doodle stones, jewelry, fabric pouch carry-alls in two sizes, and leather wallets

Training: Rhode Island School of Design, degree in graphic design. Formal training in illustration while working at American Greetings Corporation.

Work: Recently became involved with Art Books Cleveland

Background: She mainly works on a small scale with colored pencils and watercolors, but several years ago, when she strove to work on a larger scale, she switched to acrylics and pastels. "I like the muted color palette of acrylics. Colored pencils allow for dimension and contrast. Watercolors can assume a wide range of techniques. Pastels lend themselves well to blending and shading. Markers are bright and fun."

Studio: Shari surrounds herself with all the fun materials she enjoys. She also has a large idea board that she changes often and considers for future paintings and drawings.

Inspiration: Museum exhibits, Pinterest, fashion trends and observing what's out in the world.

Contact: www.handmade13.com
25100 Hilltop Drive



Kim Zarney

Kim's monochrome paintings are created using water soluble oil paint on heavy coated paper and synthetic panels.

"My work can be enjoyed on a number of different levels – the subject matter itself, the directness of how the paint is

applied (no preliminary under drawing) and the range of subtle textural elements that add visual enjoyment."

Art: Subject matter relates to the natural world, including landscapes, sycamore trees, waterfalls and wildlife. He recently started to include the American Bison. "Using my art to help save these iconic creatures has added special meaning to my work."

Training: Cleveland Institute of Art, BFA in painting and printmaking. His father was an artist, so he "grew up knowing what to do."

Work: His work is widely exhibited nationally and locally at the Bonfoey Gallery. He enjoys working with water-soluble oils because there's no odor and they clean up with soap and water. This medium also offers a range of options where they can be used thick like traditional oils or diluted as watercolor washes. "People often tell me that my paintings remind them of Chinese paintings, and I agree." He approaches pieces not as direct renditions but as abstract expressions that leave room for interpretation.

Background: He began pursuing the monochromatic format 20 years ago. Since paints are expensive, he started using black to save money. He enjoyed the directness and abstract quality that a monochromatic format provided. He also liked the many layered textural elements that emerged from the process. His palettes have since grown to include sepia, terra cotta, blue and green.

Studio: His studio is his only workspace.

Inspiration: "It comes from the many hours spent outdoors taking notes and photographs. The photos are converted to inexpensive color copies that are used as references for the paintings, where I can study details and elements I might have missed." He also pulls from the sketches and preliminary studies by Andrew Wyeth.

Contact: www.zarney.com
Beth Segal Photography | Zarney Originals
23400 Mercantile Road, Suite 6

