



## Artworks proudly exhibits alumni's creations

### Artworks Reunion

**Where:** Artworks, 19 Everett Alley at Stockton Street, Trenton

**When:** Through Nov. 17, noon-4 p.m. weekdays or by appointment

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By **JANET PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Artworks came to life as the Princeton Art Association in 1964. It's been a presence in Trenton as Artworks since it was chosen in 1988 to manage the Trenton Arts Center in the historic Sears warehouse on Stockton Street. Trenton resident Mary Yess was its first paid director. Since that time, a multitude of students have passed through the doors, honed their talents, and pursued their art dreams.

And making that all possible have been other directors, instructors, resident artists and board members.

To celebrate that rich history, the present board, under the co-chairmanship of art advocates

## fine arts

Anne LaBate and Peter Kasabach, has launched an Artworks Reunion exhibit that will be on display through Nov. 17. Forty-one artists who have worked as leaders in the Artworks endeavor are represented, showing works in what is now a first-class exhibit space with exposed brick walls, excellent lighting and soaring ceilings and skylights.

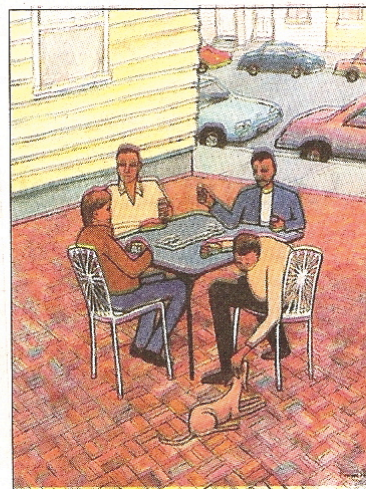
The wide variety of works on exhibit mirrors the diversity of classes and workshops that have been offered over the years. And it's interesting to note that so many of the exhibiting artists are long known in the Trenton area: names such as Mel Leipzig, Marge Chavooshian, Michael Madigan, Paul Mordetsky, Tom Kelly, Pat Martin, George Olexa, Rory Mahon, and Gail Bracegirdle, to name just a few.

The variety of style and media that came in from the artists could have made a show this large difficult to mount, but under the able hands of Bracegirdle, Elise Manella and Khalila Sabree, it is all coherent and works well.

The smallest work in the show is Sarah Bernotas' "Flower Pendant," a forged, shaped silver flower with a glass bead center that is mounted on a wooden plaque. Leipzig's "Artworks" acrylic on canvas is the largest. This is the painting he completed on site during his retrospective exhibit in that very space.

There are two sculptures, one by Rein Triefeldt titled "Solar Satellite," a bronze and solar cells work that has a dynamic otherworldly presence; the other is Rory Mahon's "Paper Wasp Vessel," a cast aluminum work that is a nest of honeycomb shapes.

Many of the artists are still in the area; some who have moved away remembered their loyalty to Artworks and shipped in their



"The Domino Players," an acrylic on canvas by Tom Kelly

works. Pat San Soucie sent three from her home in Oregon. They are abstract watercolor and collage works in her signature colors that could be inspirations for quiltmakers.

Another interesting abstract was done by Michelle Soslau, who is part of the National Feminist Art Project and will be speaking about the project and its initiatives at Artworks on Nov. 14. Her entry in the show is "Behind The Fire," an ink and acrylic on arches paper done in vivid tones of turquoise and blue against heated orange.

Soslau's painting is effectively displayed near Martin's gentle charcoal drawing, "Summer Wheat," which speaks more of the soft quality of the wheat than a detailed drawing, stalk by stalk, might be.

There also are photographs in the show. Sally Davidson's digital photo and print "Mykonos-Stairs" shows an intense blue sky and sunlit white stairs with blue shadows. Beth Daly's "Swamp Lilies" is a

color print of the lilies and their reflections, their leaves and the aqua plants floating on the surface of the water.

NJ DeVico also looked to water lilies for inspiration. She's exhibiting a pastel of a pink waterlily and its foliage. And Siri Om Singh carries the flower theme along with

"Flowers of Shiva," an acrylic and collage that is free and lovely and almost conceals a tiny collage of a dancer perched on a painted flower stem.

Figures appear often in the exhibit. Kelly's "The Domino Players," an acrylic on canvas, shows four men playing the game on a card table on a city street. The men breast their tiles while one man leans down to pat a dog.

"Noah Sleeping" by Stephen Kennedy depicts a bare-chested boy sleeping in soft light, and "La Donna Con Albicocle E Topi" by Helen Bayley is an oil on canvas that portrays a partially nude female with a drape over her lap. Fruit is strewn about her and she wears a red ribbon in her hair.

With a representation such as this show of artists, instructors and art advocates, is it any wonder that the art community in Trenton is growing and finding a presence in the newly reactivated Artworks?