



Culture in brief: Montclairites win Scholastic Art and Writing Awards



"Anamaliium," by Montclair High School senior Olivia Kosakowski. COURTESY MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

"Anamaliium," by Montclair High School senior Olivia Kosakowski, was a regional recipient of a Gold Key for Design in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for students in grades 7-12.

Nearly 350,000 works of art and writing were submitted to more than 100 Affiliate Partners across the country, of which MAM is the sole New Jersey affiliate.

Montclair had five winners, with 11 awards. Along with Kosakowski, Montclair winners and honorable mentions included Emma Demefack, an eighth-grader at Renaissance Magnet School at Rand; Montclair High School senior Sam Lasiter; Kent Place School ninth-grader Elizabeth Laurence, and Montclair High School junior Ezra Marcus-Tyler.

The competition at MAM focuses on visual art. Its area of service includes the counties of Bergen, Essex, Passaic, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren. A full list of winners is at montclairartmuseum.org/teen. Each MAM Gold Key Award winner will display one work at MAM through March 26.



Culture in brief: The Maker Studio, shekere at The Creativity Caravan



Shekere. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Creativity Caravan is partnering with Montclair artist Elizabeth Smith Jacobs to hold mixed media classes, workshops and camps. The inaugural class, African Shekere, takes place Sunday, Feb. 25. It is part of The Maker Studio, in which Jacobs will be teaching and hosting an eclectic variety of focused workshops at her home studio, a five-minute walk from The Creativity Caravan and three blocks south of the Montclair Art Museum.

A shekere is a percussion instrument of West African origin consisting of a hollow gourd covered with a loose netting on which beads, shells or seeds are strung, played by shaking. In this workshop, participants will learn how to create this webbing, while adorning it with an assortment of beads and embellishing the exposed gourd with a pyrography (burning) tool.

The class is suitable for ages 12 and up and is limited to six students. All materials are included. For more information, call 201-259-9801 or email hello@thecreativitycaravan.com.



Culture in brief: concert and exhibitions at 73 See



Seed Artists presents Turning Jewels into Water at 73 See.

On Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m., Seed Artists presents the return of the “&” series at 73 See Gallery, 73 Pine St., with a percussion electronics duo, “Turning Jewels into Water.” Val Jeanty plays Afro-electronica, rooted in voodoo culture from her native Haiti. Ravis Momin plays music of India, North Africa and the Middle East, “by way of improvisational jazz.”

In a release, Seed Artists writes: This new project with composer/ percussionist/turntablist Val Jeanty arose from her participation in a jam session at Pioneer Works in Brooklyn, NY while Momin was artist-in-residence there in September of 2017. Their collaboration, rooted in improvisation shaped by ritual, evokes the esoteric realms of the creative subconscious. Drawing from the voodoo religion, Val recreates the ancient rhythm and pulse of Haiti through digital beats, while Momin, whose own musical background is rooted Indian, North African and Middle-eastern traditions, has developed an original blend of electro-acoustic beats, drawing together the improvisational traditions in Jazz and Indian music. Together they explore the capabilities of new technologies to create a seamless blend of multiple electronic and acoustic instruments.

The Gallery also has exhibitions coming up in town and in Newark.

The Jewish Museum of New Jersey, located at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, in Newark, presents, with 73 See Gallery and Design Studio, an exhibition titled “Threading the Needle.”

The exhibition will have a public opening and reception on Saturday, March 3, 6-9 p.m. “Threading the Needle” is a group show of artists working in the medium of textiles/fabric. It will be on display through April 15.

In addition, “Rising From the Ashes,” featuring works of Carol J. Cohn, originally shown at 73 See Gallery and

Design Studio in Montclair, will open on Sunday, March 11 at The Jewish Museum of New Jersey in Newark.

For more information, visit 73seegallery.com.



Black History Month: African American cultural committee shows films



Jacqueline Cofield at Elizabeth Catlett's home and studio in Cuernavaca, Mexico. COURTESY JACQUELINE COFIELD/J RÊVE INTERNATIONAL

African American films and forum

Thursday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

MAM's African American Cultural Committee will screen segments from "In Search of the Light" and "The Art of the Journey-The Ben Jones Story."

Montclair Art Museum, 3 South Mountain Ave.

Montclairartmuseum.org

973-746-5555

"In Search of the Light" shown in its entirety, and "The Art of the Journey."

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m.

Montclair Public Library, 50 S. Fullerton Ave.

Montclairlibrary.org

By LARK LO

For Montclair Local

African-American artists often find they are more free from racism abroad than in the United States, according to the International Review of African American Art, Vol. 21.

James Baldwin said in the 1989 film "The Price of the Ticket," in an interview with Maya Angelou, "Once you find yourself in another civilization you're forced to examine your own."

Two films presented this month by the Montclair Art Museum's African American Cultural Committee explore this situation. On Feb. 22, there will be a panel discussing two films, and on Feb. 24, the films will be screened in their entirety at the Montclair Public Library.

Senegal-based Jacqueline Cofield's "In Search of the Light" (2013) and West Orange's William M. Barbee's "The Art of the Journey (2016) — The Ben F. Jones Story" both focus on African-American artists who live abroad.

The cultural committee's focus "is to strengthen the collection of African-American art and artists at the museum," said William S. Jiggetts, chair of the committee. Montclair, according to the last U.S. Census, is 27 percent African-American, with the south end 40 percent to 50 percent African-American.

The panel on the 22nd will include art collector Mary Anne Rose Gentry (widow of Herb Gentry, expressionist painter, who appears in "In Search of the Light"), artist Nanette Carter, artist and cultural committee co-founder Ben F. Jones, artist Ayana V Jackson and filmmaker Jacqueline Cofield. It will be moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Charisse Jones.

"The Art of the Journey" is a biography that shows how Ben F. Jones became an artist and looks at his "Afrofuturism meets abstract expressionism art" process.

It highlights how he has used his "artivism" to elevate public awareness of such political issues as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 and the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin.

"In Search of the Light" is a documentary, shot in seven countries (U.S., France, Italy, Spain, England, Mexico and the Netherlands) that interviews leading African-American artists abroad. Among them is the late master printmaker and sculptor Elizabeth Catlett and abstract mixed media painter Nanette Carter, daughter of Montclair's first African-American mayor, Matthew G. Carter.

Nanette Carter, Jiggetts said, is back in Montclair and has a solo show, "An Act of Balance," at the Skoto Gallery in New York's Chelsea neighborhood.

When the African American Cultural Committee was founded, "there wasn't much focus on African-American art or artists at the museum," Jiggetts said.

The committee was founded 30 years ago by artist Ben F. Jones (not the artist in the feature); by Montclair native and artist Janet Taylor Pickett, who lives in California; and by Montclair writer Valerie Wilson Wesley.

That is changing. The last three major acquisitions by the Montclair Art Museum have been by African-American artists.

“The committee has done a fine job of making sure there is no lack of attention to African-American artists of major significance. Janet Taylor Pickett is huge. Mickalene Thomas is huge. Kara Walker is huge. Nick Cave is definitely having a moment,” Jiggetts said.

Kara Walker’s “Virginia’s Lynch Mob” (1998) is the most expensive single piece the museum has ever acquired.

Montclair’s African-American community has long been supportive of the arts, according to an article by Patricia Hampson Eget, “Challenging Containment: African Americans and Racial Politics in Montclair” in the “New Jersey History Journal.”

“There is a very strong, active, relatively affluent African-American community in Montclair and they are culturally active,” Jiggetts said. “There is a great support for the arts. That is why this committee exists. The community isn’t an art community, but it is a community of art supporters.

“The films are amazingly interesting and have a local relevance — both of the films have a lot of connections to Montclair — and many artists that the committee has worked with and appreciated have lived abroad and grew up right here in New Jersey.”



Finding home in the land: American artist Kay WalkingStick



“Night,” 1991, is in MAM’s permanent collection. COURTESY MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist

Through June 17

Montclair Art Museum

3 S. Mountain Ave.

montclairartmuseum.org, 973-746-5555.

Some relevant events: Third annual Gaelen family artist lecture on Thursday, April 26, with Kathleen Ash-Milby, Art classes, including Parent/Child Diptychs on Saturday, March 10, and "Exploring Kay WalkingStick through Watercolor," an eight-week class beginning April 12

By GWEN OREL

orel@montclairlocal.news

Kay WalkingStick told herself that she would never do a painting about the Trail of Tears. The subject had been addressed, and it was too much of a cliché, said National Museum of the American Indian's Kathleen Ash-Milby, who co-curated a retrospective of WalkingStick's work (with David W. Penney), on a walk-through of the exhibition at the Montclair Art Museum on Thursday, Feb. 1.



KATHLEEN ASH-MILBY

Then WalkingStick spent time in the Smoky Mountains, and was overcome with the beauty of the region. Imagining that if the area were her home and she were forced to leave it, "she really understood the loss," Ash-Milby said.

Her 2007 painting, "Farewell to the Smokies," on two wood panels, shows the mountains in two different color casts, with small people walking along the bottom. Including 60 works, this is the first large retrospective for the artist, who was born in 1935. The exhibition was organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and will be at MAM through June 17. MAM is the exhibition's final stop, after appearing at the National Museum of the American Indian, Heard Museum, Dayton Art Institute, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and Gilcrease Art Museum.

WalkingStick, of Cherokee descent on her father's side, draws on her Native American culture, and is also influenced by modernism and feminism of the 1960s and 1970s.

The artist grew up in Syracuse, the youngest of four siblings, after her parents had separated. She began painting professionally in the 1970s.

Many of the paintings come from private collections and museums, and many are on loan from the artist. "She has a huge corpus," Ash-Milby said. "She's a very prolific artist."

MAM curator Gail Stavitsky pointed out that WalkingStick has Montclair connections, too: the artist taught at the Yard school at MAM for many years.

Native American art was often excluded from the discourse on modern art, Ash-Milby said. When shows began to be made in the 1980s and '90s, they were often group shows. And while they gained exposure for a lot of artists, "we were losing the opportunity to really understand an artist's work in depth," she said.

The retrospective is a walk-through of WalkingStick's different styles: modernist and minimalist early on, then gradually becoming more abstract, before turning to landscapes and then diptychs, or two-paneled work. Following her husband's death in 1989, her work takes a darker turn. From 1996 to 2005, WalkingStick was a professor at Cornell University, and taught abroad, leading her to create Italian-influenced work, some with gold leaf. Her later work includes Indian decorative styles in her painting.

The exhibition is divided into periods and themes: "The Sensual Body: Early 1970s," minimalist modern paintings with flat silhouettes and reflections of liberated female sexuality; "Material and Meaning: 1974-75," WalkingStick's exploration of paintings as objects rather than representations, and some homage to Native American leaders; "Two Views: Diptychs," two-paneled depictions of landscapes and "mythic" memories; "Chaos to Calm: 1989-95," drawings and paintings of the gorges of Fall and Enfield creeks in Ithaca, reflecting WalkingStick's grief over the death of her husband and awareness of the fragility of life; "Landscape: The Power of Native Place," incorporating designs made by Native artists of each region to Native identity and specific landscapes, and "Heroic Landscapes," the artist's work since 2012, which use the horizontal diptych format but have imagery that continues from one panel to another. MAM writes in a release, "Rather than separating the abstract designs that link these places to the Native people who have inhabited them, her patterns now float across the entire diptych surface, foregrounding an inseparable relationship."

"Night" (1991) was borrowed from MAM for the national tour. The portions of the diptych "represent two kinds of knowledge of the earth," Stavitsky said in a release. "One is visual, a memory of a stream bed near Tucson, Arizona, and the other is more spiritual."

WalkingStick, Ash-Milby said, is an "iconic artist who has really changed the field, and inspired the following generations of artists."

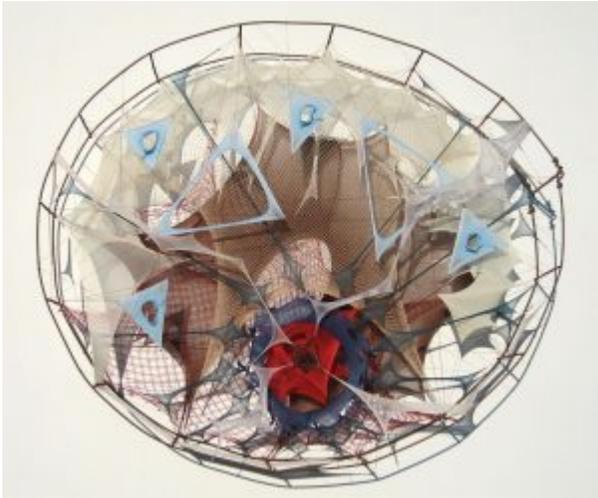


The "Chief Joseph" panels in the Montclair Art Museum. NEIL GRABOWSKY/FOR MONTCLAIR LOCAL

The artist's "Chief Joseph Series," panels created from 1974 to 1976, were a result of her asking her father, not long before he died, to name an important Native American leader. He answered Chief Joseph, who led the Nez Perce in their battles with the U.S. Army. A later painting, "Howitzer Hill Fusillade" (2008), commemorates the U.S. Cavalry's dawn raid on a sleeping tribe at the Battle of the Big Hole.

Ash-Milby and Penney write in a note, that WalkingStick's work combines "a passion for landscape painting with the pursuit of spiritual truths about our shared human condition."

Asserting Native American identity, they write, is "a process that continues to this day." Their essay quotes the artist saying: "This is who we Americans really are. All different, all the same, all in it together, making art."



Culture in brief: Studio Montclair Inc. opens exhibition tonight



"Bullseye," wire and pantyhose, 33x27x6, by Katie Truk. COURTESY STUDIO MONTCLAIR

Studio Montclair (SMI) presents the exhibit, "Making as Thinking," on view from Feb. 9 through March 29, at their new Studio Montclair Gallery, 127 Bloomfield Ave.

An opening reception, with refreshments provided by Halstead Property, will be held on Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 from 7 to 9 p.m. This will be the first exhibit held in the new space.

The show features work in a variety of visual media including sculpture, painting, drawing, and mixed media. All the work, whether abstract, representational or whimsical, is infused with a sense of mystery and purpose that invites multiple viewings.

Curator Todd Lambrix says in a release, "As I chose the work, I could almost see the process or feel the emotion propelling the making. This making seems to function as both the process and the thinking, and the resulting works have a layered, open flexibility to them. Ultimately, this body of work creates a narrative that has an undeniable connection rooted in a collected unconscious. It is hopeful and bleak, somber and energetic, searching yet grounded."

Participating Artists:

Alaine Becker, Mona Brody, Kathy Cantwell, Nora Chavooshian, RitaMarie Cimini, Lorraine Deprosopo, Alison Golder, Alyce Gottesman, Sheila Grabarsky, Beth Heit, Linda Brooks Hirshman, Michelle Kurlan, Wendy

Letven, Susan Lisbin, Maria Lupo, Madalyn Marcus, Natalya Tali Margolin, Theda Sandiford, Katie Truk, Becky Yazdan

Curator:

Todd Lambrix is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He has an MFA in Sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BFA in Painting from Rutgers University. He is a full time Professor of Fine Arts at Parsons School of Design in Manhattan. Todd’s work looks to the wonderment associated with early naturalists and their understanding of the world as well as the narratives and behaviors of the collector mentality.

About Studio Montclair:

Studio Montclair Inc. is a non-profit organization of exhibiting professional and emerging artists and others interested in the visual arts. In the past year, it has exhibited more than 280 works of art and has encouraged and interacted with close to 1,000 artists.

For more information, visit studiomontclair.org.



Photo: eye of the beholder at Studio Montclair



COURTESY KATE ALBRIGHT

Members’ art was on view at the opening of “State of the Art,” Studio Montclairs’ annual member show, on Friday, Feb. 2, at Academy Square Gallery, 33 Plymouth St. The exhibition will be up through April 27.

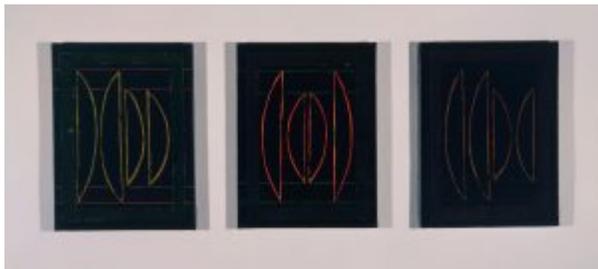
“State of the Art 2018” includes over 100 pieces of art from Studio Montclair artist members in a broad range

of visual media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and mixed media.

The jurors for the show are Virginia S. Block and April Tracey.

Participating Artists

Bithika Adhikary, Stephen Aduato, Natalia Bessonova, Mariette Boerstoel, Irene Brandle, Judith Brice, Ron Brown, Robyn Burns, Judith Carlin, Patricia Catanzaro, Pauline Chernichaw, RitaMarie Cimini, Robin Clark, Dorothy Cochran, Carol Cohn, Anita Dellal, Elizabeth DeMarco, Theresa DeSalvio, Paul Di Zefalo, Dan Epstein, Andrea Epstein, Ekaterina Ermilkina, Diane Fergurson, Fred R. Fertik, June Fisher-Markowitz, Maria Fontanez, Yolanda Fundora, Joan Gantz, Meeta Garg, Aubrie Emmons George, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Madeline Giotta, Anita Gladstone, Leslie Goldman, Richard Goncalves, Judy Gould, Sheila Grabarsky, Donna Grande, Dante Guariglia, Eve Han, Victoria Hanks, Marsha Heller, Peter Heller, Brenda Hendrickson, Susan Holford, Ronnie Horn, Mary Howe, Tsai Hung, Karene Infranco, Monica Janes, Martha Kerr, Catherine Kinkade, Kathleen Kirchner, Deborah Kozak, Ann Kraus, Michelle Kurlan, Joe LaMattina, Carole Lane, Rachel Laufer, Joan Lesikin, Eric Levin, Joanna Madloch, Kevin Majewski, Pam Malone, Valerie Mankoff, Natalya Tali Margolin, Fernando Mariscal, Janet Markman, Evan Stuart Marshall, Angel Martinez, Susan Marx, John Masi, Philip McCormick, Marcia Miele Branca, Dennis Murray, Walter Oliver, Denis Orloff, Anna Orlova, Ted Papoulas, Chris Pelletiere, Marcia Pelletiere, Marisa Picardo, John Piccoli, Sophia Pierre, Jim Price, Lisa Quinn, Jack Quinn, Natasha Rabin, Bonita Reed, Bob Ricciotti, Markus Riebe, TJ Ro, Will Rockwell, Rebecca Lea Rosenheck, Lisette Rotman, Robert Ryder, Hal Sadler, Theda Sandiford, Kim Schmitt Thomas, Suzannah Schreckhise, Lucille Scurti, Michael Sherman, Joan Speare, Stephen Sprung, Isaac Stackell, Linda Steinhardt Majzner, Miriam Stern, Lisa Stoeffel, Onnie Strother, Brian Stymest, Amy Thompson-Hill, Richard Togli, Laurie Waite-Fellner, Eric Williams, Maya Wilson, Sandra Wolf, Audrey Yankielun, Barry Yarkon, Tony Zaza



Culture in brief: MAM to hold “Free First Thursday” on Feb. 8



A detail from Kay WalkingStick's "Chief Joseph" series. COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

Free First Thursday at MAM will take place on the **second** Thursday of the month, Feb. 8, 5-9 p.m., to spotlight the new special exhibition “[Kay WalkingStick: An American Artist.](#)”

Among the activities: live music in the galleries with **Bern & The Brights**, Montclair-based electro dream pop duo.

- For Black History Month, tours of African American artists now on view in the Museum’s permanent collection
- The Yard School of Art offers a **Draw Along Workshop** a free drawing session with a clothed model and guided art instruction for all ages.
- New! **Teen Space** welcomes teens with a free open studio, 7–9 p.m.
- New! Capture the fun with an official MAM photo to share on social media.
- New signature cocktails, wine selections, and NJ Beer Co. beer, the exclusive beer of Free First Thursday Night, at the bar in partnership with Krug Catering at Orange Lawn Tennis Club. Museum members receive a discount on drinks at the bar.
- Featured food vendors, including the Empanada Guy food truck.

In addition to the regular monthly program, featuring free general admission, live music, art activities and tours, the museum will also offer the premium MAM After Hours experience, Art Meets Jazz with Oliver Lake, from 7 to 9 p.m. (This part of the program is not free.)

New attractions include a Teen Space, with a free open studio, from 7 to 9 p.m., and an official MAM photo to share on social media. Free First Thursday Nights will be back to their regular schedule March 1. For more information, visit montclairartmuseum.org.



Culture in brief: Michael Gabriele to exhibit



"Strange Pears" by Michael Gabriele. COURTESY MICHAEL GABRIELE

The Gallery at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New Jersey Properties, 695 Bloomfield Ave., will host an exhibition of pastels by Clifton artist Michael Gabriele through March 1, with a gala reception on Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 to 9 p.m.

A longtime member of [Studio Montclair Inc.](#) and a 1975 graduate of Montclair State University, Gabriele has displayed his artwork — contemporary, representational landscapes and still lifes — at northern New Jersey galleries and museums for 30 years.

Since 2007 the George Segal Gallery at Montclair State University has selected his artwork five times for display in the prestigious "Art Connections" juried exhibit. The Thursday, Feb. 8 reception at the Montclair office is free and open to the public. Contact Lynne Oliver, realtor associate at the Montclair office, at (973) 744-5544, ext. 310, for more information on the exhibition.



"Hornets in my Head." by Sarah Petruziello with detail

Culture in brief: applications for SMI exhibit



COURTESY STUDIO MONTCLAIR

SMI Artists (or those willing to join) are invited to apply to be included in "Discovery in the Details" from Studio Montclair, an exhibition that will focus on "compelling visual exploration through focus on a close-up view of a work of art. All media, including sculpture, are welcome.

“Artists should submit images of works that contain a detail (an area or focal point) that they find compelling and that can be enlarged to stand alone as a completed artwork. ... The enlarged detail, will be exhibited alongside the original work, and cannot simply be a photo reproduction of the selected area of detail unless the original medium is photography.”

No entry fee. Deadline is Saturday, Feb. 17. The exhibition will take place April 6 to May 19. For more information, visit studiomontclair.org.