



Photos by Bob Heil



Mott School
"Assemblage" Found objects in Wood / Paint
Susan Kiley – teacher



Isabel Nieves – Mott School
"Kachina" Wood / Paint
Susan Kiley – teacher

From Soup to Nuts

Children's Art - Trenton Public Schools

by Carol Hill and Carolyn Stetson

Every two years the budding artists in the Trenton Public Schools transform the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie into a magical showplace with a vibrant collection of paintings, drawings, collage, sculpture and mobiles. Again this year in January and February, the Trenton Museum Society will host these up-and-coming artists whose work will entertain, amuse and enthrall you. The art teachers who have guided these students and their creativity are to be commended for their inspiration and dedication. The last exhibit in 2004 displayed artwork created by scores of students in the main galleries at Ellarslie. It was an exciting show and the students were thrilled to see their work hung in a "real" gallery. We anticipate that 2006 will be an even bigger and better show from the students in all of Trenton's Public Schools. The exhibit begins on January 14th and the opening reception will be on January 21st from 1 to 4 pm, continuing through February 26th. Don't miss it!

In conjunction with the Public School exhibit, Saturday workshops will be offered at The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie, for children and adults. Included are morning classes for children grades K-3 (accompanied by a parent) and afternoon workshops for 4th graders through adults. The workshops offered are Chinese Calligraphy, Printmaking with Styrofoam, Winter Landscape Painting, Bookmaking, Paper Bag Puppets and Coiled Basketmaking. The classes are free and open to anyone interested. Registration is limited to 12 participants. Call (609) 989-1191 to register or for information.



Sara Guadron –
Trenton Central High School
"Botanical Pattern" Mixed media
Bonnie Randall – teacher

January 14 - February 26

Opening Reception Saturday, January 21st 1-4 pm

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

THE ELLARSLIE MUSE
is a publication of the
Trenton Museum Society
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Brian O. Hill, M.A.

Mission of the Trenton Museum Society

The Trenton Museum Society is a volunteer, non-profit organization which supports Ellarslie, the Trenton City Museum. This museum was established to collect, conserve and display tangible items that represent the culture and traditions of all Trentonians. Collections, changing exhibitions and public programs are supported by the museum to advance the historical and cultural significance of Trenton, its people and its industries. The Trenton Museum Society supports the acquisition and conservation of the permanent collection and originates programs to sustain and nurture the cultural life of Trenton and its artists and to foster aesthetic awareness in fine and decorative arts.

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As I approach the beginning of my eighth year, it is reassuring to see the museum in such a state of activity. The cataloguing of the collection of the Museum, maintained by the Trenton Museum Society, is finally getting catalogued, photographed and given an assigned storage place. This will not only allow research and proper maintenance of the collection, but will also allow total access and loan possibilities. It will be exciting to put the collection on line and design virtual exhibits for viewers on the internet.

Currently on exhibit, is the Trenton Public schools bi-annual show. The depth to which these teachers go to achieve what they do with so little, never ceases to amaze me. The art teachers of the Trenton Public Schools are remarkable. What always gives me the greatest pleasure is creating this exhibit out of the hundreds and hundreds of submissions we get from the Trenton Public School System - our future budding artists, tomorrow's "Cutting Edge" artists. I do hope you take the time to come down and see this exhibition, it's well worth it.

In the spring, the classics will return to Ellarslie with a group of five Delaware valley figure painters. "Drawn Together" by a passion for working from the live model, these artists, John Ennis, Simon Mauer, Robert Miele, Steve Smith and George Thompson, have been painting together for several years now, hiring local models to pose for them at various art studios throughout the area. Their mediums include charcoal, pastel and oil. This exhibit is open March 4 through April 16 with an opening reception on March 11 from 6 to 9 pm. We hope to see you there.

In the sponsorship area, I am very proud to report that Schoor DePalma and Capital Health Systems have joined the Trenton Museum Society in sponsoring the Trenton Public Schools exhibit, the after school art program, the Saturday workshops and the puppet program. With the help of both Capital Health Systems and Schoor DePalma, the education committee will continue to provide quality art programs for the Trenton Community.

The Ellarslie Open now has a sponsor of its own as well. Beginning with the twenty-fourth annual Open in April 2006, Taylor Photo of Princeton and the William N. Taylor Charitable Trust will be underwriting the exhibit and helping the museum deliver the area's premier exhibition. Look for announcements of a seminar sponsored by Taylor Photo on marketing your art.

It is indeed a privilege and an honor to continue to present premier exhibitions, quality educational programs for children and Trenton's finest artists for our community to enjoy.

Thank you.



Brian O. Hill, M.A.
Director, Trenton City Museum
Ellarslie Mansion



The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie is owned by the City of Trenton, Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor; maintained and operated by the Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, Francis E. Blanco, Director; with additional support from the Trenton Museum Society.

XXIV

Ellarslie Open XXIV - Now sponsored by the William N. Taylor Charitable Trust and Taylor Photo

by Brian O. Hill

You cannot talk about the Ellarslie Open without mentioning Ben Whitmire. Ben was the museum's first real director. He loved Trenton, its art and artifacts, and was an avid and knowledgeable collector. He was a committed, energetic director whose vision helped shape the museum into what it is today. He immediately started the contemporary exhibitions and in 1982 on a suggestion from Mary Yess, he started the Ellarslie Open. Arguably, the areas premier exhibition space, the exhibit at Ellarslie is a showcase of what is to come for future solo exhibits. The Ellarslie Open has gone through many changes over the years, from the award amount of only \$50 to most recently adding the prestigious Ben Whitmire Purchase Award honoring Ben for his commitment to the museum. This, the twenty-fourth annual Open, has now taken the step I have sought for eight long years. The Ellarslie Open has a sponsor.

Taken from the Taylor website, (www.taylorphoto.com): "We were founded in the 1980's by brothers Bill and Bob Taylor. Innovation, talent, and adherence to the highest standards of quality have set us apart from our competition for all these years." That phrase is what makes this sponsorship exactly the right fit. It is precisely what the Ellarslie Open is all about - looking for regional artists that have "Innovation, talent and adherence to the highest standards of quality," which set them apart from their competition. You will be hearing more from Taylor Photo in the coming months when we present a seminar on marketing your art. However, for now I thank Bob Taylor, The William N. Taylor Charitable Trust, and Ron Eckert for joining us in presenting the "Best of the Best" in quality art of the region.

We expect that this year's twenty-fourth annual event will surpass last years total of \$4,300 in purchases and awards donated from the following wonderful arts supporters. For twenty-four years, Joe and Gloria Teti of Triangle Art have supported this exhibit and art in Trenton. The Honorable Douglas H. and Christiana Palmer have recently established the Mayor's Award. The Best Trenton Artist Award comes from Marge Miccio and Bob Wagner of Artifacts Gallery, where you can find everything Trenton, and Martha Press, who awards an exhibit at her

wonderfully thriving and bustling Gallery on Lafayette. The Trenton Museum Society provides the awards from the Director and the President as well as the Trenton Museum Society Purchase award and the Ben Whitmire Purchase Award. Although The Ellarslie Open has a long tradition of highlighting the multi-medium work of regional, state and nationally known artists, we look forward to expanding from the over several hundred artists that submitted last year. Last year's juror paired this down to 77 artists from 3 States and 45 cities.

This year's juror hails from the Jersey City Museum. Rocío Aranda-Alvarado received her Ph.D. in Art History from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2001. Her dissertation was a study of modernist movements in Harlem and Havana between 1925 and 1945. She is the curator at the Jersey City Museum, where she organizes exhibitions of contemporary art featuring work by both established and emerging artists in the New Jersey and New York region. She also organizes exhibitions drawn from the Museum's eclectic permanent collection of American art including painting, sculpture, photography, works on paper and material culture from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Ms. Aranda-Alvarado is currently working on a retrospective of the work and ideas of the Puerto Rican conceptual and performance artist Rafael Montañez Ortiz and on a group show titled *Tropicalisms: Subversions of Paradise*. She has been invited to speak at the Smithsonian Institution, the Whitney Museum of American Art's Initial Public Offerings program, the Americas Society and at various local colleges and universities. Her writing has appeared in various publications including catalogue essays for the Museum of Modern Art and El Museo del Barrio, *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, *Art Nexus*, *Review: Journal of the Americas Society*, *NYFA Quarterly*, *BOMB* and *American Art*.

So, it's all in place: great juror, exciting artists and now Taylor Photo. This is going to be great! The prospectus is almost ready and I am very excited about the show. If you want to ensure you are on our list (I'll check it twice), just email me at brianohill@ellarslie.org.

Taylor Photo www.taylorphoto.com

CALENDAR

Exhibits

January 14th - February 26th

Children's Art from Soup to Nuts

Trenton Public Schools

Reception - Saturday, January 21st 1 to 4 pm

March 4th - April 16th

Drawn Together -

The Classics Return

Oil paintings by John Ennis, Simon Maue, Steve Smith George Thompson, Robert Miele

Reception - Saturday, March 11th, 6 to 9 pm*

April 22nd - June 11th

Ellarslie Open XXIV

Juried exhibit

Reception - Saturday, April 29th, 5 to 8 pm*

*The first hour of opening receptions are for members only. Memberships are available at the door.

Special Programs and Events

September 2005 - March 2006

Preserving Our Past: An Inspiring Exhibit Honoring Those Who Chronicle Our Heritage

Pottery, photographs, drawings and other "rare gems" from the Trenton and Princeton communities. In collaboration with McCarter Theatre Center's production of *Gem of the Ocean*, by August Wilson

January 28th - February 25th

Children's Saturday Workshops

FREE ~ call (609) 989-1191 to pre-register



Come to the cabaret!

April 7th

Tribute to Irving Berlin

Singer/Pianist Fred Miller

7:30 pm Reservations are suggested

\$10 members

\$15 non-members

See www.ellarslie.org for future events

Paper, Rock

Featured collage, sculpture

by Pat Rodeawald

November fundraiser at Barnes & Noble stores a success

Nancy Nicholson, Community Relations Manager for the Barnes & Noble in Princeton and Trenton Museum Society Trustee, reported that supporters of our museum spent \$3,196 at the Princeton and Hamilton stores which generated a 20% donation of \$639.

It was a great way to do some holiday shopping and support TMS at the same time.

The Trenton Museum Society and the Trenton City Museum presented the collages of Sarah Stengle and stone sculpture of Petro Hul at the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion from November 12, 2005 through January 8, 2006. Both artists have been frequent exhibitors at the museum's annual Ellarslie Open, and fans and newcomers were treated to an entire museum filled with their intriguing work.

Sarah Stengle creates collages on found book pages and other print media, often incorporating scientific or historical themes with nature. Birds, eggs, bones, leaves and eyes appear in her work, with some of her more personal, and darker, images, on view in this exhibit. Ms. Stengle hunts used bookstores to generate a stockpile of volumes that provide her with "a backlog of unrealized ideas" with which to work. In an innovative twist, Ms. Stengle often integrates text into her images. Says Ms. Stengle, "I thought writing on work was really self-indulgent and asking a lot of the viewer. And then I just decided to be self-indulgent and ask a lot of the viewer. Because what it demands is that you stop

and pay attention to it, and read it for longer than what an image demands." Museum director Brian O. Hill agrees the integration works, saying, "Normally I find an artist's verbiage on their work distracting, but in Ms. Stengle's creations I find it refreshingly original."

Ms. Stengle earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at Carnegie Mellon University and a master's of fine arts degree at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. In addition to creating her own art, Ms. Stengle works part-time as a book designer for Princeton University Press, a job that allows her to use the same talents she applies to her art – her patience and a keen eye.

Petro Hul has used stone as his primary medium since the 1980's. He prefers to work without first constructing a model, allowing the individual, inherent qualities of each stone block to suggest the direction the sculpture will take. Explains museum director Brian O. Hill: "I have long admired Mr. Hul's work both visiting his studio and at Grounds for Sculpture. It is always a marvel to me to see an artist of such talent working to remove the sculpture from an organic shape, pounding away at the stone, knowing when to ease up and when to forge forward, until it reveals itself to him."

The exhibit features works in stone based on visual memories of Mr. Hul's time spent hiking in the Southwest desert, as well as abstract and representational figures in marble, onyx and alabaster. By becoming more separated from the natural world, Mr. Hul feels we are losing touch with something necessary for our survival. Mr. Hul evokes the natural world in his art and encourages the viewer to take part in it by both seeing and touching his work. Mr. Hul's exhibitions include the Sedona Sculpture Walks in Arizona, that city's annual Hillside Sculpture Invitationals, Stone Carver's Annuals in Redstone, Colorado, Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey and other gallery and museum shows in New York and New Jersey.

Photos by Cie Stroud





Museum Opens New Permanent Collection Room by Honoring Community Leaders

by Carol Hill and Chris Casarona

Museum Director, Brian O. Hill, commissioned new solid oak cases to display historically significant items of Trenton's past. This effort was underwritten through private donations and dubbed the "Split A Case" program which offered donors an opportunity to support the museum and display pieces from their personal collections. Supporters included: Ted Boyer and Jane Rohlf, Chris and Kim Casarona, J. Seward Johnson, Lenox, Inc., Michelle Post, Carolyn Stetson, The Old Mill Hill Society, Friends of Ben Whitmire, Jay Smith and Mark Williams, and Elizabeth Yull.

Many incredible examples of Trenton's past are on display demonstrating the city's prowess in pottery and porcelain manufacturing during the second half of the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries. Exhibited are true works of art featuring hand-painted, artist-signed vases from Willets and Ceramic Arts Company/Lenox, to highly skilled applications of elegant silver overlay on porcelain in a wide variety of forms. A fine selection of Boehm birds and flowers add an explosion of color, while an exhibit of Stangl pottery illustrates an extraordinary range of form and function. A unique collection of early Trenton commemorative spoons, packaging and ephemera from the days

of Pink Champale, and a large collection of figural salt & pepper shakers add interest and a touch of whimsy to the experience.

Most notably however, is the exhibit's integration of photographs by Peter C. Cook and illustrations by Howard Siskowitz, honoring African American educators, artists and spiritual community leaders in the Trenton and Princeton areas. The "Preserving Our Past" opening made for a unique and memorable experience and displayed many historically significant items, including photographs of honorees with Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks & Paul Robeson. Honored in the exhibit are: Jim Floyd, Fannie Floyd, Rev. Hubert Hunter, Hank Pannel, Rev. Dr. Willie J. Smith, Dr. Geddes Hanson, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Shirley Satterfield, Jack Washington, Edith Savage Jennings, Albert Hinds, Cecelia B. Hodges, Ph.D. and Thomas Malloy. Many of the honorees attended the opening which drew over 300 people including actress Felicia Rashad. This inspiring event was produced collaboratively by the Trenton Museum Society and McCarter Theater.

The "Preserving our Past" exhibit is on display now through March 2006.



Architects for Art Education

by Jennifer Concha

Trenton Museum Society (TMS) Trustee Cody Eckert held the grand “re”-opening of her firm Cody Eckert & Associates Architects on December 1st and graciously offered to donate part of the proceeds from the evening to the TMS children’s art programs.

Traveling between her new office space at the Forrestal Village complex and Tre Piani restaurant just around the corner, the event provided guests the opportunity to share in Cody’s celebration as well as support a worthy cause.

Artwork by the lady herself adorned the office walls and a portion of any pieces that sold was donated to TMS.

Artwork by Jeanette Martone graced the dining room at Tre Piani and again, a portion of any sales went to support children’s art in Trenton.

TMS Education Committee Chairperson Carolyn Stetson, After School Arts Program teacher Rebecca Erickson and volunteer Beth Feltus put together a beautiful display table for the dining room featuring puppets, drawings, paintings, sewing projects and found-art collage pieces created by the Trenton students who participated in this year’s program. A donation jar was made available to raise funds as well.

A special treat for any of the guests at Cody’s opening was the attendance of Dr. Greg Olsen, the scientist, inventor, entrepreneur and long-time friend of Cody’s who spent seven days last October on the International Space Station. In a brief statement, Dr. Olsen commented on the importance of education and of course, the Trenton Museum Society couldn’t agree more.

By the end of the evening, the event had raised over \$200 for our children’s art programs. The society can’t thank Cody Eckert enough for her thoughtfulness and generosity, and we wish her the best of luck in her new location.



Beth Feltus with a display of art by Trenton students who participated in the After School Arts Program last fall.

Photo by Carolyn Stetson

Holiday Art & Craft Sale a success

It was two weeks before Christmas and Molly’s, the Shop at Ellarslie was brimming with holiday cheer. Despite a snowy start to the weekend, the store was busy with hassle-free shoppers purchasing unique gifts.

Store manager, Mary Kay Girmscheid and board members Carol Hill, Chuck Lorimer and Jennifer Concha helped with store duties along with several volunteers.

For the last four years, in addition to regular holiday merchandise, local crafters have been invited to display their wares for a special three-day sale.

This year, local artists were asked to show paintings, prints and other artwork for sale. Several well-known artists participated and we hope to continue next year with many more artists to make this truly an “art sale”.

Look for the announcements for next year’s holiday sale at Molly’s in the fall.

Peter Wagner

by Pat Rodeawald

Peter Wagner became a member of the Trenton Museum Society Board of Trustees because of his interest in horticulture. That may seem like an indirect path, but gardening is just one of many potential activities for TMS board members. Peter continues to garden at the Ellarslie mansion as part of the Gardening committee, but he's also chairman of the Development, Membership and Volunteer committee.

Peter's background in gardening includes his job as a Horticulture Coordinator for a company based in Lansing, MI that produces plastic tags that label plants. When he moved to Trenton in 2001, Peter became the company's first telecommuter. Because of flexibility in his schedule, Peter has also started a gardening business. Given this experience, it's not surprising that another Museum Society board member suggested Peter might enjoy working on the board's Gardening committee.

Peter still works in the museum's garden, but as chairman of the Development, Membership and Volunteer committee, he keeps busy managing three important elements of the Trenton Museum Society. He is working to further develop the grant-writing capability of the committee to enable the Museum Society to obtain more and larger grants which will allow for development of its programs. Through the membership aspect of his committee, Peter works to

Photo by Jim Ambrosio



ensure that current Museum Society members renew and that the Society gains new members.

Peter and his team also recruit volunteers to work in the garden, at the museum store, at openings and other events and on Museum Society marketing. (If you're a Museum Society member, you'll be hearing from Peter's committee soon about volunteering. If you'd like to volunteer, call 609-989-1191 and leave a message regarding the activity that's of interest to you.)

In addition to his 'day' job, his gardening business and his role on the Trenton Museum Society board, Peter is also vice president of the Glen Afton civic association and hopes to own a gardening center one day. Peter enjoys living in Trenton saying, "I think Trenton has wonderful and unique neighborhoods, great architecture, valuable American history and great potential to be a vibrant and energetic city that attracts people from New York and Philadelphia to the Trenton scene." He makes the most of his Trenton location by going to the shore every Sunday in the summer, and he plans to take advantage of the nearby mountains this winter. Peter also enjoys working on the Museum Society board. He says, "It's a great organization; the people are wonderful - and the garden has potential." Peter certainly has the talent and drive to help the Trenton Museum Society make the most of that potential.

Thank you

Every year, the Trenton Museum Society extends a special thanks to its members at the Patron level and above.

The Museum Society appreciates all gifts, large and small, but would like to specially acknowledge the following members for their extreme generosity:

- Douglas Bushnell & Betty Wold Johnson
- Gail Szenes
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Trenton Museum Society
PO Box 1034
Trenton, NJ 08606



TRENTON CITY MUSEUM

Ellarslie Mansion
Cadwalader Park
Trenton, NJ

Tu - Sa 11am - 3pm
2nd Fri 11am - 3pm, 5pm - 7pm
Sun 1pm - 4pm
Closed Mondays, major holidays

Phone (609) 989-3632
Fax (609) 989-3624
Website www.Ellarslie.org

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