

***Pictorial Constructions: Pasquale Cuppari, Joe Freeman, Jr., Patti Jordan & Wayne Charles Roth at the Wachung Arts Center January 8 - 28, 2012.***

*Pictorial Constructions* presents work by three New Jersey artists and a Rhode Island artist who are all interested in the careful or improvisational assembly of elements to create dynamic and probing compositions in a variety of media. Like architects and excavators, these four artists are fabricating fascinating worlds and structures in their art.

Pasquale Cuppari (Roselle Park, NJ) has literally added a new dimension to his brilliantly hued paint and glitter encrusted abstract canvases. With heavy daubs of oil and enamel paint as well as other mixed media elements, he has been interpreting the beauty of the world and the expansiveness of the universe in his organic abstractions which are part of his Mondo Bello series. Recently he has been building sculptural projections onto the bottom of his sensuous works in an effort to extend his tactile surfaces to further play with literal and illusionistic space.

Joe Freeman, Jr. (Providence, RI), a recent graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, has been producing a series of hand developed silver gelatin photographs that explore and document actual constructions that he sets up either in nature or in the studio and then photographs. Using string, wood, glass pieces, duct tape, wooden blinds, and other found and chosen objects and materials, Freeman intrudes on rocks and trees or completely reformulates a neutral wall to play with light, shadow and illusion in the spaces he constructs. The result is woods that you can't enter or geometric objects that suggest creatures you don't want to meet so that the viewer is aware that he or she is on the outside trying to penetrate the visual and/or metaphoric barriers Freeman has devised.

Working with ink, water, graphite and solvent, Patti Jordan (Montclair, NJ) squeegees and pushes ink across the surface of large sheets of Fabriano paper. While not producing delicate soulful swoops with a hand-held Chinese brush, Jordan pushes and pulls her medium, coaxing and building the black ink so that it results in bold, textured and abstractly cratered and rippled layers. Creatures, bones, eyes, limbs and orifices appear, collide and condense on her horizontal and vertical scroll-like pieces, constructions of the imagination, psyche and random gesture.

Wayne Charles Roth (Mountain Lakes, NJ) shapes and builds thousands of computer images to create his cascading, rushing digital concoctions of color and form. Painting on the computer in a unique and astonishing manner, Roth's build-up of swooping and soaring abstract shapes almost defies our ability to follow the rapid movements in his art. Metaphors for 21<sup>st</sup> century life, his digital paintings capture the complicated frenzy and experience we all create and design for ourselves even as we hunt for the corners of respite both visually and mentally in life as well as art.

Guest curator of the exhibition, Virginia Fabbri Butera, Ph.D. (Summit, NJ), is the Director of the Therese A. Maloney Art Gallery at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ, where she also teaches art history and chairs the Art and Music Programs.