

To draw, you must close your eyes  
and sing.

- Pablo Picasso

## February 2014

Show announcements, News,  
Listings, Essay, Restaurants



Rose and the Twins, 30" X 40"

## WHAT'S HAPPENING:

### **The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition: Lambertville and the Surrounding Area.**

February 9 through March 23, Thurs-Sun, 1-5  
**Reception Sunday February 9, 3-6**

I am hosting Janet Hunt's production of the "Coryell" show at **my Gallery** in February and March, which includes a painting raffle for the benefit of the Lambertville Historical Society.

This is a continuation of the juried exhibition held annually for decades at the Coryell Gallery in the Porkyard, in Lambertville. Last year we moved it to my gallery. Same wonderful exhibition (61 pieces accepted in 2013), same charming Janet, just a different venue. More light too. Come join us at 204 N. Union St. to see some of the best artists working in the area. Plenty of parking around back. Call 609-397-0951 for information.

**I WILL BE GIVING A TALK** at the **Show Some HeART exhibition and sale** at the **Bucks County Community College Lower Bucks Campus** in Bristol, PA **Friday Feb 7**. Show is 6-8:30. **I am scheduled for 7:00**. My topic is **Artist in the Real World** – what comes after school.

**I WILL BE A GUEST** on the **WDVR Into The Garden show** for a discussion of plein air painting, **Wednesday Feb 5. 89.7FM**

### **GREAT MUSIC ALERT!**

**Sweet Plantain String Quartet** performs in Lambertville **FEBRUARY 15, 8pm** at St. John the Evangelist Church to present their Internationally acclaimed blend of jazz, Latin and classical music. This is great stuff. Tickets starting from \$20 (students \$10) to \$55 [www.riversidesymphonia.org](http://www.riversidesymphonia.org) 609-397-7300

## **NEW HOPE ARTS: 2 Stockton Street, New Hope [www.newhopearts.org](http://www.newhopearts.org)**

**Europium Dancetheater** Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30 \$25 215-862-1792

**Continuum** Invitational combining master and emerging artists

February 1 through March 2

**Christopher Bye** photographs and video March 8-16

**Sculpture Exhibition** April 12 – May 17

I can't say enough about New Hope Arts. We have an extraordinary organization in New Hope dedicated to fostering the arts and artists, and they have been presenting provocative and sophisticated exhibitions. No other venue in the region shows such a range of contemporary artistic achievement. If you want to see what's happening in art, become a regular visitor. You will be exposed to some great stuff. If you want to help, become a member.

**New Hope Arts.** 2 Stockton St. New Hope. (across from the train station). Hours Fri-Sun, 12-5 215-982-9606 [www.newhopearts.org](http://www.newhopearts.org)

## **DINING**

The New Hope and Lambertville restaurant scene keeps getting better. For upscale dining, try Brian's on Kline's Court in Lambertville. For a broad vegetarian and gluten-free menu check out Hearth, in New Hope ([www.hearthnewhope.com](http://www.hearthnewhope.com)), and there has been a big change for the better at the Stockton Inn.

## **Painting Offer for Friends of Ely Park**

I did this painting of Hamilton's Grill for the Benefit of the Friends of Ely Park. The painting is 12 X 16" and will be given to the first person who donates \$2800 to the FoEP.

[www.friendsofelypark.org](http://www.friendsofelypark.org)

Lunch at Hamilton's 12 X 16"



Find a **NIFTY VIDEO** made in 1949 about Lambertville on the FoEP website



### THE LISTINGS:

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Coryell" Show** (Lambertville Historical Society) Feb 9 – Mar 23  
**Gallery of Robert Beck.** 204 N. Union St. Lambertville NJ **Recept Sun Feb 9, 3-6**  
hours Thur-Sun, 12-5 info: 609-397-0951 Ample parking behind building.

**Europium Dancetheater** One night, **Sat Jan 25**, 7:30 \$25

**Continuum:** Third annual exhibition pairing established artists with emerging artists of their choosing. Feb 1 – Mar 2 **Recept Sat Feb 1, 6-8 (Members 5-8)**

**New Hope Arts 2 Stockton St.** (across from train station) **New Hope** 215-862-  
www.newhopearts.org

**Lyrical:** *Gallery Artists Group Show* Feb 8 – March 3 **Artists' Gallery**, 18 Bridge St., Lambertville **Recept Sat Feb 8, 4-8** hrs: Fri-Sun, 11-6 609-397-4588

**Sweet Plantain String Quartet Sat Feb 15, 8p St. John the Evangelist**, Bridge St., Lambertville tickets \$20-55 (Student \$15) Riverside Symphonia: 609-397-7300  
riversidesymphonia.org

**New Hope – Lambertville Winterfest** is this weekend. Chili cook-off, parade, great concert Friday night (Jim Webb, John Danaher opening), ice sculptures music, food, family events. [www.winterfestival.net](http://www.winterfestival.net)

**For a list of local galleries visit [NewHopeArts.org](http://NewHopeArts.org)**



Hippocampus

### Essay: Seahorse

I passed this boat a dozen times before I saw her. My attention was always on the other side of the road – probably the sign at the sand lane that comes out of the scrub. But on my last day heading home from Jonesport she caught my eye, resting on jack-stands just over a slight rise. I was drawn to her lines and colors so I stopped and got out to look.

It is quiet on the northern coastal expanses of Maine. Beyond the boat was a tidal estuary that has been fed by Western Bay in twice-a-day tidal cycles for millennia. A

breeze gently combed the tall grass around my feet while a distant gull entertained his friends, impersonating a baby's cry, then an old man clearing his throat.

There is a lot of heroic left in a good boat whose working days are done and I suppose that's why it's not uncommon for them to be put up in full view, like a model on a shelf, rather than be left to rot in some hidden corner. At rest on supports in still fields of granite and blueberries, they echo burial platforms of the plains Indians.

The boat sat just a few miles from where Will Frost built the first "Jonesport" style lobster boat on Beal Island in the 20's. Other builders in New England adopted the design and more than a dozen shops operated on the island alone. They produced so many of the boats that they were sometimes referred to as "Beals." With the slight drop in the sheer this one is not a classic Jonesport, but still quite beautiful.

Removed from the water and without the cabin you can best see the clean, sensuous lines of the hull. The contours begin as the designer's vision of how the vessel will move through the water. That idea is made real in a half-hull model that is hand-carved to scale. It has to look right before timbers are cut. Measurements taken from the model are used to make the working drawings.

Constructing a wooden boat is a laborious process requiring a woodworker with great skill and a customer with a stout wallet. There is only one wood lobster boat under construction now on Beal, and possibly in the whole state (the others are fiberglass). Doug Dodge, a descendant of Will Frost, is building it. Doug went to Pennsylvania to select the oak trees for the keel and ribs, and he found the cedar for the planks in another part of Maine. Doug did the final milling in his shop. Some of his friends stop by to help him with the two and three-man tasks such as bending planks into position but he is building the 38-foot boat of his own design, by himself, by hand. The actual construction will take two years, but from first phone call to clearing the harbor will be more than three.

I admire the men who construct these beautiful vessels, as well as those who go to sea in them to make their living. I'm at an age when my own successes, failures, and heartbreaks have given me an appreciation for those of others. When I look at a boat that has been pulled out of service it's the history that matters to me. I see through

the peeling paint to the functional form, and I listen to the stories of life and purpose under the surface, growing faint as seasons pass and wood goes gray.

Before I got back on the road I took a photograph of the boat in the field, which I later referred to in combination with an imagined sky to create this studio painting. Two trees by themselves and the approaching sunset help place the mind. I added the figure to keep it alive.

What drove me to create this image was the name painted on the boat's bow. It stuck in my head the whole trip home, poking at me for weeks until I had the painting done. The name wasn't lettered by a professional sign painter, rather it was done crudely by hand - possibly after the boat had been put up. One word: "Hippocampus."

It's an unusual name. I knew the hippocampus is part of the brain but that was all. The dictionary says it is responsible for memory and navigation. The word is derived from the Latin for "seahorse," which is how the hippocampus is shaped.

Seahorse. Navigation. Memories. Could there be a better name for a boat?

Robert Beck's essays appear monthly in **ICON** Magazine: [www.icondv.com](http://www.icondv.com)

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