



LOCAL

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2014

"The First Glimpse of Venus," detail of an oil on canvas by Jay Eisenberg, at the New Hope Arts Center

ALONE at last

With decades of artistry under his belt, a lifelong painter debuts in a solo show in New Hope.

By GWEN SHRIFT
STAFF WRITER

An accomplished eccentricity in the work of painter Jay Eisenberg embraces delicate portraiture and semi-surreal landscapes with figures, and reads history in old clothing.

Eisenberg also follows an august Bucks County painterly tradition by making his own frames on occasion. But while old-time impressionists carved austere, formal wooden constructions, Eisenberg has been known to incorporate cowboy boots and scraps of a black leather jacket into his work.

This exuberant vision is the subject of a retrospective, which is also the artist's first solo show, "Past Present Future," Saturday through Oct. 13 at the New Hope Arts Center.

The exhibit brings together work from 40 years ago, and other paintings done as recently as two years ago. The show includes portraits and landscapes, including a colossal barn that pays tribute to a French academican, and selections from a stream of work he calls "Art as Fashion/Fashion as Art."

In counterpoint to the swagger of "Modern Armor," the black leather piece, Eisenberg offers "Broken Dreams, Broken Promises, Broken Heart."

This work is based on a hooded sweatshirt, which became an icon of violence, sorrow and protest in American life following the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in 2012.

The hoodie "is framed in faux brick and then graffitied. It's dark, kind of like a memorial piece," said Eisenberg. He plans to auction the work on eBay during the exhibit to raise money for a partial scholarship to the Tyler School of Art, his alma mater, for an African American student.

Elsewhere in the exhibit are works based on the influence of the late sculptor John Chamberlain, whose preferred medium was the crushed components of cars.

"I found this fabulous junkyard and walked around like it was a sculpture garden — a tree coming through the inside of a car, embedded in this (tree) trunk are car tires," Eisenberg recalled.

The artist treated these visual riches to "immediate drawings, with no preparation," and finished one with the housing of a Chevrolet truck that, in its own way, recalls a glittering icon.

Eisenberg may have waited a long time for his own exhibit, including 30 years spent teaching art in his native New York state, but he never lost sight of his

identity. "I would say my memory of painting goes back to my first coloring book," he said. "I can't remember ever wanting to do or be anything else."

"Past Present Future" is just one of several esthetically rich exhibits this month.

The Art at Kings Oaks Exhibition brings together the work of Derek Bernstein, Alex Cohen, David Campbell, Paul Metrinko, Michael McJilton, Sterling Shaw and Jenn Warpole for a New York-flavored show in a characteristically Bucks County setting — a onetime agricultural building turned chapel turned artists' haven —

in Newtown. The event runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 4, 5, 11 and 12. Opening reception 6 to 9 p.m. today; closing reception 2 to 6 p.m.

Oct. 12, 756 Worthington Mill Road. Information: www.kingsoakart.com.

The Bucks County Illustrators Society Art Exhibit draws on all its resources 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Oct. 11 and 12 at the Barn Studio Gallery in Plumstead Township.

Participants are Pat Achilles, James Bennett, Amanda Lee Condict, Ponder Goemmel, Pamela Hamilton, Richard A. Har-

ington, Monika Hinterwaldner, Deb Hoeffner, John Huber, Kim Kurki, Linda N. LaRose, Kathryn Maxwell, Rebecca Rhodin and Glenn Zimmer.

Opening reception 6 to 9 p.m. today at the gallery, 4783 Landisville Road.

"Recent Portraits," works by Elise Dodeles, is on view through Oct. 31 in the Class of 1956 Gallery in the Mollie Dodd Anderson Library at the George School, 1690 Newtown-Langhorne Road, Newtown.

Reception with gallery talk by the artist is from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 23.

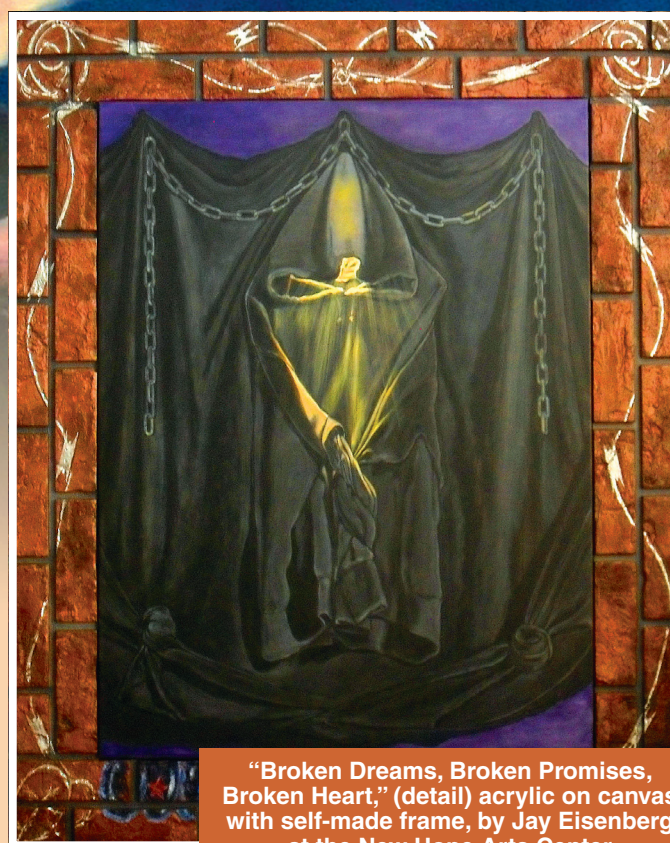
Claudia Fouse Fountaine is showing new paintings through Oct. 31 at the Gold Light Gallery in New Hope, starting with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday. Information: www.goldlightgallery.com.

The Stover Mill Gallery holds its second juried art exhibit on four weekends starting Oct. 11. Reception is Oct. 12 during gallery hours, 1 to 5 p.m. The gallery is at 852 River Road in Erwinna. Information: www.stovermillgallery.org.

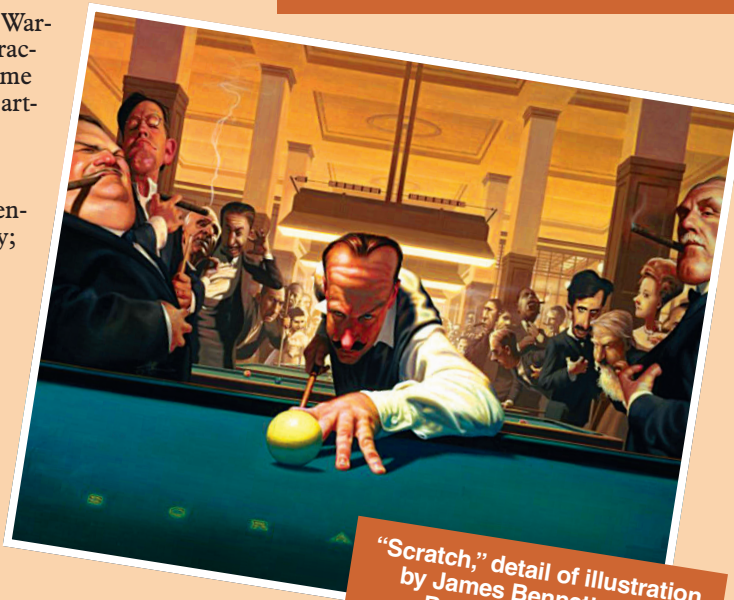
The New Hope art League and Artsbridge organize the Salon des Artistes Regionaux for a three-day exhibit Oct. 24 through 26 at Rolling Green Barn in Solebury Township.



"San Francisco Area Fighter A885 in Profile," oil on canvas by Elise Dodeles, at the George School



"Broken Dreams, Broken Promises, Broken Heart," (detail) acrylic on canvas with self-made frame, by Jay Eisenberg at the New Hope Arts Center



"Scratch," detail of illustration by James Bennett, at the Barn Studio Gallery



"Woodlane Creatures" (detail) by Claudia Fouse Fountaine at the Gold Light Gallery

Reception is 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 24. The gallery is at Route 202 and Aquetong Road.

happenings

TODAY

Ladies Night Bingo. 7 to 10 p.m. Big Brothers Big Sisters. Light refreshments available. 375 W. Court St., Doylestown. Cost: in advance, \$25 (20 games); at the door, \$30. To purchase tickets: www.ladiesnight.kintera.org.



Wordsmiths Reading Series. 7:30 p.m. Featuring poets Kasey Jueds, Wendy Fulton Steginsky and

Bill Wunder. Bucks County Community College, Orangery Building, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown Township. Cost: free. Information: 215-968-8156.



TOMORROW

Race to Empower. Registration, 8 a.m.; walk begins, 9 a.m. 5K and 1-mile Fun Walk, benefiting A Woman's Place. All participants receive a free T-shirt. Central Park, Wells Road, Doylestown Township. Information and to register: Christina Baer, 215-343-9241, ext. 110, or www.awomansplace.org.

Mattress Fundraiser. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twenty different mattresses to choose from. Profits to Neshaminy High School boys soccer program. Neshaminy High School, Gym No. 3, Langhorne. Information: 215-913-8762.

Past, Present & Future Art Show. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Benefits the Doylestown Cemetery Walking Tour Program. Rolling Green Farm, Route 202 and Aquetong Road, Solebury. Information: www.doylestowncemetery.com.

Parking Lot Party. 2 to 8 p.m. Featuring country music by Cort Carpenter, Nikki Briar and others. Food trucks, games and more. Falls Township Community Park, 9125 Mill Creek Road, Levittown. Information: www.ParkingLotParty7.com.

Oktoberfest Dinner. 4:30 to 7 p.m. Pork and kielbasa, sauerkraut, more. Sponsored by Men of Grace Episcopal Church, 313 Main St., Hulmeville. Cost: \$12; children 12 and under, \$6. Information: 215-757-6025.

