

Abstract works dominate New Hope Arts Center members' exhibit



"The Road to Eleusis," acrylic on canvas, by Andrew Conti.

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STAFF WRITER

Members of the New Hope Arts Center were free to enter a single work in the salon exhibition now on view, resulting in a self-juried show.

The approach was fruitful, yielding more entries than ever, according to center executive director Carol Cruickshanks.

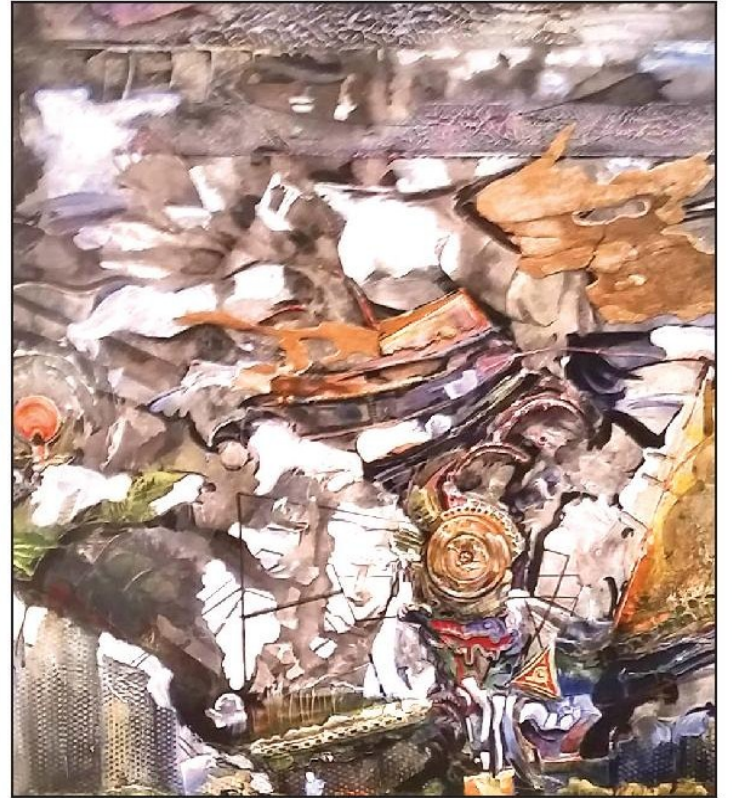
In artistic terms, the exhibit is a revelation of the depth of local talent expressing itself in abstract terms. Non-representational art carries the day, ably supported by stellar impressionistic works and sculptures.

Chief among the abstracts is Anneliese Van Dommelen's "Wind Machine" in acrylic, carved plaster and sycamore. It's an astonishing assemblage of ideas, conveyed in texture and movement as forms tear, float, fall and flow.

"Wind Machine" is notable for restrained color, which is especially exuberant in works by Armor Keller, Ellen Masko and Andrew Conti.

Keller's mixed-media "Undersea Garden," with its use of bright, flowing color, seems more emotional than many of her works, while Masko's use of opposing blues and yellows in her watercolor "Feeling on Top of the World" exhibits the kind of control that, in painting terms, separates masters from aspirants.

Conti's acrylic, "The Road to Eleusis," seems to tear through the viewer's dimension, allowing access to strange vistas and perspectives.



"Wind Machine," (detail) acrylic, carved plaster and sycamore, by Anneliese Van Dommelen.

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"Cio-Cio San #1," venetian plaster and mixed media, by Florence Moonan



Untitled oil on panel painting by Jennifer Warpole



"Steam Vent," oil on panel, by Robert Beck.

Exhibit

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The composition is bold and twisted, the painter making visionary choices in color and outline.

Florence Moonan explores a mood of fluttering ascent in "Cio-Cio San #1," in which fields of dreamlike coral and turquoise are cut through by matter-of-fact, razor-sharp vertical and horizontal forms and ominous, dark-red splotches and streaks.

Anthony Kulish and Ellen Sapienza offered introspectively colored works, Kulish continuing his exploration of subtle depths in "Shadows and Forms." Sapienza's mixed media-over-etching "Martine's Pond" is satisfyingly dark, polished and analytical.

One of the most eye-catching pieces is Jennifer Warpole's untitled, impressionist oil on panel depicting a woman in a somber room with draperies and a wardrobe.

It is a stunning work, not least because of the painter's treatment of an electric, creamy-white door that glows against the woman and the interior, which is rendered in intriguing maroons, browns and grays.

Robert Beck's cityscape oil on panel "Steam Vent" is dark in a very different way, taking full advantage of nighttime and reflections on wet pavement. The central motif is a plume of steam spangled with city lights; the effect is noirish, affectionate rather than sinister.

Kathy Schroeder makes a lot with a little in "Sailboat in Fog," a small impressionist study in silvery grays executed in a minimalist technique.

Sculptures are few, with noteworthy offerings from Peter Geffert, whose alabaster "Sovande Kvinna — Sleeping Woman," abstracts the undulating form of a living body, and from Renee Chase, whose white stoneware "Adornment," renders the female form without the body.

Works by Norine Kevolic and Susanne Pitak-Davis reside on opposite ends of the three-dimensional art spectrum.

Kevolic uses bamboo to make serene, meditative mosaics, such as "Of Sea and Sky," a dreamlike seascape of thin wooden strips and circular forms above waves of twisted vines that toss beach pebbles and a gleaming glass marble.

Pitak-Davis lets extremely free spirits loose in brightly painted modeling clay and other plastic media embedded with beads and found objects. In the piece exhibited, the artist gives her "Angel of the Green Glade" rhinestone-lined eyes, a potted plant for a hat and a seriously surprised expression.

"New Hope Arts Members' Salon Exhibition" is on view through Sept. 27 at 2 Stockton Ave. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Information: 215-862-9606 or newhopearts.org.

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"Of Sea and Sky," bamboo, twisted vines, beach pebbles, glass marble, fishing line and pigmented beeswax, by Norine Kevolic.



"Undersea Garden," mixed media, by Armor Keller