

Whimsy, mystery and friendly monsters: Arts center hosts best of year's sculptures

Janet Purcell
For Times of Trenton

New Hope is known as the home of the Pennsylvania impressionists. It has also become known as the home of artists of every genre. Of all the diverse exhibitions and offerings at the New Hope Arts Center, the annual juried sculpture exhibition is always outstanding. And this year is no exception.

Says Carol Cruikshanks, New Hope arts director, "Since 2001, New Hope Arts has honored the sculptural heritage of the community with this much-anticipated and enthusiastically received presentation for artists and viewers alike. This year, participating artists from Wisconsin (and) North Carolina join exhibitors from five neighboring states.

"Our jurors, Elizabeth Miller McCue and Michelle Post have a long-standing relationship with New Hope Arts sculpture programs," Cruikshanks says. They "have curated an exceptional, diverse and entertaining array of objects, wall art and free-standing pieces."

Jurors' Awards for Sculpture 2016, sponsored by Rago Arts and Auction Cen-

Sculpture 2016: The 15th Annual Juried Sculpture Exhibition

Where: New Hope Arts Center, 2 Stockton Ave., New Hope, Pa.
When: Through June 18.
Hours: noon to 5 p.m., Fridays to Sundays
Contact: 215-862-9606 or newhopearts.org

Eric Schultz offers the same opportunity. Stand there. Focus. Let your eyes roam over the found objects he has assembled to create his "Phoenix."

Notice the kitchen knives and spoons he used, the springs and saw blades, the wheel and chain.

He is also exhibiting three other works, but be sure not to miss "So Handy," a fun piece in which a cocky guy, cigarette dangling from his lips, is balanced by his big hands whose fingers are screwdrivers supporting him on the pedestal.

NATURAL WONDERS

Don't miss Leora Brecker's white clay "Yeanning," a biomorphic piece that brings to mind so much of the natural world.

Same goes for Rory



with horns and spirit wings transporting souls of the departed to the underworld. In part of what Cruikshanks says has come to be known as the whimsical section of the exhibit, you'll find Holly Smith's paper mache, mixed media sculpture.

Smith calls her work "Whereupon the Moonman and the Three-Headed Lizard Tried to Do the Dishes Together and What Ensued." Take note of the Moonman in his blue jacket, polka-dot tie and jazzy black-and-white shoes as he stands on the belly of a three-headed lizard poised to strike with a spear.

SENSE OF SOLITUDE

Nearby is Janet Street's low-fire clay, mixed media work "Alone, Alone, All Alone," which did not garner an award, but perhaps should have.

It's a simple work showing a blue cat in a blue-beaded clay boat that includes a Samuel Taylor Coleridge quote about how we are ultimately "Alone... Alone on a wide wide sea..."

That same sense of solitude is portrayed in a different way in Georgette L. Veeder's cast hand-made paper "Lure of the Siren." This horizontally broad work portrays a wide wing-