

Seeing What We Know, Knowing What We See

By Lucille Cannava (lcannava@comcast.net)

Some argue that the greatest escape, the one that provides the internal space to find renewal, lies within our imaginations. But that can be the most difficult of places to find. Errands have to be run, work and families need tending. Besides that, ours is an age that leads us to a different destination - the cyber space that lies outside the realm of inner connectivity. How then do we get to renewal? One way is to let artists lead us there.

In that regard Winchester is particularly fortunate to have the Griffin Museum of Photography whose exhibiting artists evoke our imaginative thought. Cross its threshold, enter its space and stroll its galleries. Take in the photographs and be amazed.

The images there, whether culled from the archives of its acclaimed founder, photographer Arthur Griffin or from the portfolio of other photographers, are taken from the ordinary world around us - the baseball hero, the daily commuters, faces of war, familiar places of beauty . . . we've seen it all before, or have we? Now we see it in a still frame that can be reflectively gazed upon, or maybe it's a streaming video that in the repetition of its images invites us to see again as if for the first time. Perhaps we are taken back to our other encounters with these objects, perhaps as far back as childhood. Or maybe as we stand there fixed on a photo it is our first encounter with the object. We are delighted or surprised or even bewildered. Maybe we understand it. Maybe we're not sure. Regardless, something stirs. And in that interior motion we are renewed.

The artists whose work is currently on exhibit present us with all kinds of possibilities for seeing things we've never imagined were there. In the Main Gallery you'll find Barbara Crane's aptly titled exhibit *Challenging Vision*. Crane takes parts of the human body, leaves and other objects from her store of personal experience and juxtaposes them, repeats and rotates them, applies brilliant colors, then mounts and frames them. Standing back the results are abstract, fresh, engaging, dynamic. A closer look at details reveals concrete forms that surprise us. Just when we think we've caught on to the process, we move to the next photo and our journey starts all over again.

In the Atelier Gallery Rita Maas presents *At Home*, photos she has taken in her living space. She captures the ephemeral quality in things as ordinary as the light and shadow that pass across a window shade or through the filter of a skylight. In her sequential phrasing of the subtle changes that occur on the object's surface over time she reveals the complexity in the simplest acts of an ever-changing universe.

Svjetlana Tepavcevic takes the viewer to the sea, a familiar place for many in her computerized

photography *The Sea Inside: Portraits of Waves*. The effect she's seeking is to render the place of solitude and beauty she found in her long swims growing up along the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

In *Sea/Shore* Jeri Eisenberg creates soft-focus images of the place where land and sea reenact their ceaseless, fluid play. As with the other artist's work, Eisenberg's photos abandon the descriptive capacity of photography and offer the viewer fragments of her own experience. The mediums she chooses transform the images. As with the other photographers the transformation is not complete until the viewer calls their own emotional responses into the dialogue with artist, subject matter and medium.

Events: Thursday, February 17, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Free admission. The three artists will be in attendance. Informal tour with Barbara Crane from 5:00 - 6:15 P.M. Member's gallery talk at 6:15 P.M. with Rita Maas

Panel discussion with photographers February 18, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Location: 67 Shore Road **Information:** 781.729.1158 or www.griffinmuseum.org or photos@griffinmuseum.org

Hours: Closed Monday; Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 A.M. -5:00 P.M.; Friday 11:00 A.M. -4:00 P.M.; Saturday - Sunday Noon - 4:00 P.M.

Admission: \$7.00 for adults; \$3.00 for seniors; members and children under 12 are free; free admission for all every Thursday

Membership Options : several categories ranging from \$25.00 for students and educators up to \$1,000.00 for Griffin Society Patrons

Workshops: Grades 1-5 on February 22 - 23 from 9:00 A. M. - Noon. Adult Writing Workshop on February 16 and March 2 from 7:00 - 8:45 P.M.

Juried Exhibitions: High School Seniors and other artists exhibited from June 29 - August 29, 2011