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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Fayetteville, AR

Exhibition Opening RECEPTION: Thursday, May 4th, 5-9 PM
“LA FEMME:
A TREATISE ON CONFLUENCE”

The Fayetteville Underground Gallery invites you to our May 2017 exhibit featuring magnificently diverse artworks that are a confluence of creative feminine force. Join us in our celebration of “les femmes,” all with Arkansas roots that reflect the highest levels of craftsmanship.

Exhibition features Works by

KAREN AHUJA • MORGAN BAME • CHERI BOHN • HEATHER CHILSON • LEAH COWDEN • AMY EICHLER • CELESTINE EICHLER • CAROL HART • ELIZABETH JAMES • DOLORES JUSTUS • MIKAYLA HOFFMAN • LAURI MATISSE • ELOA JANE PERREIRA • FATIMA POLLARD • ROSIE ROSE • JOELLE STORET

.....
Live Music by CLARK BUEHLING
Special Performance by OPERA IN BLOOM
.....

Beverages provided by OZARK MIXOLOGY

FAYETTEVILLE UNDERGROUND GALLERY SUNDAY SALON

May 21st, 2 – 5PM is Sunday Salon featuring artist talks.
Bring your friends and family to the Gallery after brunch to begin your week. Check out our social media sites for additional art talk events.



KAREN AHUJA

Karen Ahuja's is a Fayetteville based Artist who has a working studio at the Fayetteville Underground Gallery. From abstraction to realism, Karen's personal experience drives the interplay of high and low focus in her compositions. "After surgery, it took years to regain my full eyesight... My paintings will have areas that are out of focus, loose, free... I believe that my style of creating is heavily influenced by my loss of eyesight." Karen has found excitement in playing in the area between abstraction and impressionism allowing her to pull things in and out of focus, reflecting her own life experience.



MORGAN BAME

There are a lot of analogies between Knitting and everyday life and relationships. It is no surprise when we say our communities are "tightly knit" or "woven together". The Bible tells us we have been "knit together" by God in our mothers' wombs. When we face anxieties we talk of being "unraveled" or "torn apart". Knitting is a metaphor that helps me process the sometimes difficult realities of life in a beautiful way.



CHERI BOHN

Cheri Bohn grew up in Texas and graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts. Her family moved to the Ozark Mountains in 1999. She has been working with stained glass since 1994, and combining glass with tree roots since 2001. Cheri says, I have always loved being out in nature. After moving to the Ozark Mountains with my family, I was inspired the unique roots I found here. I combine the roots and stained glass to create one of a kind sculptures. As an artist I surrender most of the design principles to the root. My work expresses balancing the human touch and nature.



HEATHER CHILSON

Born and raised in northeastern South Dakota, Heather Chilson moved to Arkansas in 2005. Originally embracing digital photography for its ease, she became frustrated having a camera full of images that she never had time to download and edit. Switching to film cameras, she slowed down her process. "The more I can think about my shot

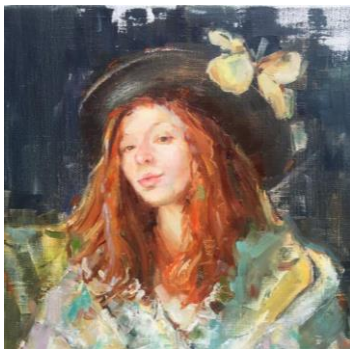
and spend time editing through my viewfinder before I fire the shutter, the less time I spend in post-processing. I don't want to create an unrealistic illusion; I want you to feel that you were there with me."



LEAH COWDEN

About the evolution of her work, Leah says, I connected my undergraduate studies in psychology with my art. As a child, I drew and painted with pencils and brushes. When I began pouring paint as an adult, art became limitless. The pressures of my life that I once experienced throughout my childhood, lifted. I was free. When I was introduced to

doors as a substitution for canvas, my art became my own totem.



AMY EICHLER

Painting, much like dancing, is a physical self-expression to capture the mood, emotion, or personality of the setting or model. Both disciplines emphasize texture in movement, allowing bold and graceful movements to work together to create a visually pleasing dance or painting. It's my love of dance that has influenced my paintings to emphasize expressive color, movement, rhythm, technique, character and the living form. My relationship with painting is about

reacting to what I see in front of me, seeing it in a way that only I can see it, and painting it with the emotions and energy that come out in the process



CELESTINE EICHLER

Celestine Eichler is from a large family of artists and, along with her daughter, has a working studio at the Fayetteville Underground Gallery.

Celestine is a member of Portrait Society of America, Artists of Northwest Arkansas, and Plein Aire Painters of the Ozarks. Celestine currently resides in Fayetteville with her husband, John.

About her work, she says, "I feel compelled to paint. I grew up around it, with art always being part of my life. I paint from my heart subjects that I love, preferably from life, enjoying the process and the journey. I paint in oils, sometimes with an acrylic start, with as much impressionistic color and expression as possible."



CAROL HART

Carol Hart, born in Shreveport, La., developed a love for art at a very young age. She earned a BA in Fine Arts with an emphasis in painting from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. She is the founder of Life Styles, a non-profit organization based on the belief that when all are included, all of our lives are enriched. Through Life Styles Carol was able to incorporate her love for art by

establishing The Blair Art Center giving individuals with disabilities the opportunity to find their voice through art and express them creatively. Since retiring in 2012, Carol has reconnected with her passion for painting. She enjoys experimenting with a variety of subjects, mediums and materials. She loves the painting process, bold rich colors and those inevitable surprises that come as the painting develops. Recent works include figurative paintings, landscapes and abstracts. Carol lives in Fayetteville, AR with her husband Bill. When not painting or traveling, Carol enjoys being with her sons and their families.



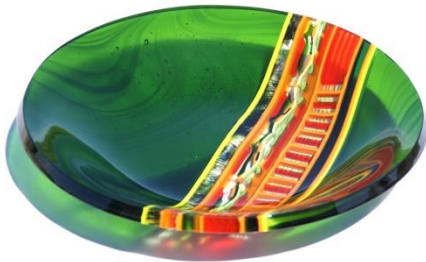
MIKAYLA HOFFMAN

My works exist somewhere in between the realms of realism and abstraction, and serves as an indirect reflection of a person's internal conflicts and processes. My sculptures explore human conditions in otherworldly beings, each one struggling with their own physical and internal problems. The figures seem inhuman or post-human, yet display inner conflict in a way that is very human and relatable. I explore the human-related form as a means of communication, to flesh out the emotions that cannot be expressed through language.

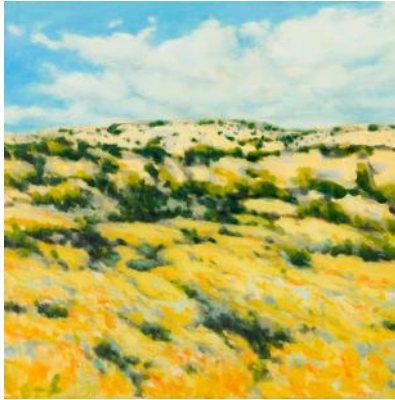
Exaggerated features and/or flaws relegate these beings to the status of “other”, but also force a viewer to empathize with them, a reaction elicited by abnormalities which could exist in humans. The implied narratives are non-specific enough to allow for individual interpretation, enabling each viewer to create their own unique narrative for the work.

I take great pleasure in turning an inanimate medium into something that seems animate, and in fact interacting with it as a being while engaged in its' making. I imagine the figures I make experiencing intimately personal, yet universally relatable, moments of deep introspection.

ELIZABETH JAMES



I began my artistic career as a teacher in fine arts. I studied oil painting and pottery in college. My fused glass work is a natural progression of my pottery experience. I love to play with color, shape and texture in my design. My glass creations often reflect my mood, the seasons, the weather, and many other influences. Each piece I create requires multiple kiln firings. I spend most of my studio time the design, cutting and assembly phase of my work. The challenge for me is to try as many techniques as possible to bring excellent design results.



DOLORES JUSTUS

Inspired by the natural world, Dolores Justus' paintings reflect a sensitive and intuitive view that distills patterns of light and form into compositions that engage and inspire. Her painterly style also contributes to the interactive quality of her art.

In her exploration of the confluence of optics and painterly abstraction, her work belongs to the "new landscape" movement of contemporary American art.

"I've always had a strong identification with nature and am continually in awe of the depth of inspiration that it offers. Despite all its variety, there are essential elements in it and in us all, that we respond to. It is those universal, underlying truths that I seek to communicate in my own work."



ELOA JANE PERREIRA

The all-attractive prospects of comfort, money and convenience filled my little grey mail box as I transitioned into a new life in America. Such pursuits, I began to realize, are at odds with the pursuit of happiness when they come at the expense of meaningfulness, resourcefulness and fulfilment. These were values I could not do without. In my search for a lifestyle where I can find fulfillment in creating meanings rather than owning disposables, I had only to look at my most immediate

resource, namely, the overwhelming amount of paper that travels this country on a daily basis. "Be the change you want to see in the world," as Gandhi famously said. And so I did - rather than preaching sustainability, I set out to be sustainable, and this quest began to shine through to my art. I began to incorporate unwanted paper from junk mail into my compositions, making the useless useful, the worthless desirable, transforming trash into beauty in a way that resonated with my personal journey. By reusing office paper, magazines, newspapers, phone books, and even coffee filters I have learned to take advantage of the inherent properties of junk paper - with its varied textures, patterns, text, and colors - as a means of self-expression.



FATIMA POLLARD

Fatima Pollard was born in a small town in Brazil now a naturalized citizen of the US, spends much of her after-work time creating colorful costumes including masks, and mannequins for a variety of events and displays including festivals, parades, dances, multi-cultural events and celebrations. She is the principal costume maker for Krewe Carnaval Do Brazil, a group of funsters that often appear in Fayetteville's Mardi Gras parade.

Fatima works out of a converted garage attached to her home in Fayetteville, AR. When she's not working on costumes in her free time, she is dancing, playing with kids or working in her gardens.



ROSIE ROSE

"I have been an artist my entire life. I was born and raised to artist parents, who owned a gallery in Eureka Springs. Growing up, I was instantly immersed in creativity. I like to think that my clothing is as authentic an art form as painting, sculpture and other classical arts. I strive to create very original pieces created with a wide variety of techniques, including felting, applique, embroidery, dyeing, fabric painting, and piecework. I think that clothing is a

unique and interesting medium because the art isn't finished until it finds its owner. Together the owner and the garment create the final piece"



JOELLE STORET

Personal "rebirths" of self-occur for many reasons for all people. In the case of the artwork of Joelle Storet, the most recent Renaissance is the most personal. For the longest time, the Belgian-born Congolese artist was creating inspired pieces that were incredibly popular in the town that nurtured her creativity the most, Fayetteville, as well as around the world. Now she is diving deep into a part of herself that she used to feel a little shy exposing. Her art as well as her upbringing can be described virtually in the

same fashion. It is a deep Afro-Teutonic Synthesis.

Submitted by Joëlle Storet
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