

The Gazette my favorite teacher

Come back to see the winners on **December 12th!**

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

Weather | Traffic | Contact Us
Delivery/Newstand FAQs



Education without the debt
Frederick Community College **Great College • Great People**

Montgomery | Prince George's | Frederick | Sports | Business | Politics | Entertainment | Opinions | JOBS | CARS | HOMES

Classifieds Special Publications Calendars Contests Best Of



SEARCH

GO

ADVANCED SEARCH

COMMENTS (0)

Wednesday, November 14, 2012



A 'Sapphire' showing of the ten best

Exhibit celebrates 10th anniversary of Contemporary Art Awards

Claudia Rousseau, On View

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the annual Trawick Prize for Contemporary Art. The work of Carol Trawick in establishing and supporting this and its companion competition for painting in the Washington D.C./Maryland/Virginia region has been exemplary and drawn high accolades. Over the years, more than 3,000 artists from the region have participated in the Contemporary Art Awards competitions, requiring a total of 30 different jurors (three per year), and resulting in more than 100 finalists whose work has been exhibited each year in a local Bethesda gallery.

Trawick herself has been tireless as an activist in support of the arts with local, state and federal government, as well as personally supporting individual artists by purchasing a work from each of the top winners of each competition. Part of the tenth anniversary celebration was the selection and presentation of a "Sapphire" and a "People's Choice" award to two members of that select group and an exhibit of the "best of the best" produced by the Bethesda Arts and Entertainment District and now on view in Gallery B.

The center of that glass-enclosed space is completely occupied by a new work by sculptor Mia Feuer, top winner in 2011, and the recipient of the "People's Choice" Award, a popular vote sponsored by Bethesda Magazine. "A Poem About the Suez Canal and Highway 63" is a large structure



photo from Jiha Moon Jiha Moon's "Big Pennsylvania Dutch Korean Painting."



More News

Two men shot near Prince George's County metro station

Police identify woman who died after rescue from Potomac River

Rockville antenna company among InvestMaryland

NEED A NEW CAREER?

We're the area's leader in workforce training!



Affordable tuition, great faculty, a beautiful campus
• 301.846.2431

MARYLAND CHRISTMAS SHOW!

Arts & Crafts
November 16-18 & 23-25
Frederick Fairgrounds



[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

GazetteBuyandSell.Com

Find what you are looking for...shop GBS...New items listed daily.



ADVERTISEMENTS

RECENTLY POSTED JOBS

[See all >](#)

Security Officers
Guardsmark Inc. - Rockville

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER Applications
ADNET - PECK SLIP

SENIOR RELIABILITY COMPLIANCE MANAGER
SMECO - Hughesville

advertisement



301-473-9025
7011 Baltimore National Pike - Frederick, MD 21702
Hablamos Español
Click Here
Financing Available
No Credit Needed!

recipients

Cooking fire blamed for one of two fires in Prince George's

Wheaton police face calm seas on Black Friday

that resembles an arch covered with mirror tiles, like a reflective mosaic. Wood and steel beams cross over and through it, topped by a mass of black feathers in a vaguely bird-shaped form. The base appears to be crawling with

snakes which also slither their way up the structure. Alberta Highway 63 is a north/south road that connects the oil sands industry in the Canadian province with the United States. The artist visited these tar sands mines earlier this year, following her trip in 2011 to Egypt soon after the fall of Mubarak that resulted in her winning work "The Cairo Tower Falls, A Fishing Boat in Alexandria is Constructed." Connected in a similarly conceptual way, the Suez Canal brings oil from the mid-east to America, while the highway does the same. However, the nightmarish scene of the tar pits mining operations has preoccupied the artist. The black feathers tipped with red paint and the snakes are reminiscent of the environmental havoc it visits on formerly pristine boreal forests. Imagine uprooted trees replanted upside down to provide nesting in their former roots for crows that will eat the new infestation of mice in the area. Feuer's work is formally compelling, visually fascinating and full of content.

The "Sapphire Award" was given to Jo Smail, top winner in 2007. Smail's work is almost the absolute opposite of Feuer's. If Feuer's work is intensely rich with imagery and materials, Smail's is empty. The latter wants to work with the "opposite of everything," a place where the negative is positive, very much akin to ideas in contemporary dance. As a little girl in a South African ballet school, Smail remembers being asked to put her hand out to experience the space in front of her. When she later suffered a stroke and couldn't speak, she began to want to explore that place of emptiness and fill it with need and feeling. Though thoroughly recovered, that's what still comes through in her work: exceedingly simple but holding a sense of emotion intangibly there. Patching and covering her canvasses with bits of painted canvas and paper, she makes constructions that also speak to an almost childlike sense of wonder at being able to bring shapes and colors together. Some of her titles sound like those of children's books: "The Branded Moon," "Figure in Stripes," "Bird Watching ."

Lillian Bayley Hoover (winner 2012) is a young artist with much potential. Her paintings are invitingly simple, but provocative nonetheless. Having won a grant to go to Istanbul to photograph a marvelous collection of models of famous buildings, she looked at the corners of these miniatures, at the wrong places, as it were, and made meticulous records of them. Her "Pergamon Altar" shows a tiny bit of the model of the great structure now in Berlin — with wrongly depicted ornament. Or, her "Hagia Sophia" avoids the famous dome and focuses on a back end of a model that totally changes the aspect of the original.

Maggie Michael's work has morphed considerably since her win in 2008. The Trawick win enabled her to travel through Europe and Russia. Her two paintings in this exhibition, "Swans of Other Worlds, Sfumato Blue," and "Sfumato Red" are referential abstractions, inspired by the book by Charlotte Douglas of the same title about painters in the Russian revolution and by the word sfumato—a term applied to Leonardo's shading technique of smoky atmosphere. Using spray paint and many other media, Michael attempts to capture a smoky resonance in effectively abstract paintings, employing stencils and other media to suggest further content.

The work of Korean-American artist Jiha Moon continues to evolve in a better direction from the work that won her the prize in 2005. The two pieces in this show are interesting, if a bit inevitable. Moon wants to combine her sources, Korean and North American, and this is bound to produce a hybrid that can almost be predicted. The interesting aspect of this work is its density, and the format. "Big Pennsylvania Dutch Korean Painting" is on paper in the shape of an Asian paddle fan, the kind that you see everywhere, but not with this decoration. Very bright and very intriguing, the work deserves attention.

David Page, another top winner of South African origin, is a maker of very strange objects. His "Camp X" in this exhibition features a group of vinyl hooded suits, sitting in a half-circle, with grey hoses attached. The work is incredibly sinister, but is also the set for a performance piece that was enacted at the opening, with real people occupying those suits and air being pumped through those tubes. In works like these, Page talks very powerfully about modern society in a very surrealist imagist way.

The Trawick Prize Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards 10th Anniversary Sapphire Exhibit, to Dec. 1, Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda, MD. Hours: Noon to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 301-215-6660.



2006 Honda Accord
\$15,000



swell Honda

598-5573 | www.criswellhonda.com/

Criswell

Gaithersbur
[www.criswell](http://www.criswell.com)

FEATURED JOBS

[See all >](#)

OIL/ PROPANE DRIVERS

SMO - La Plata

Drivers

UPS - Milwaukee

DRIVERS

UPS - Fairfax



Gazette Health,
Frederick, Winter
2012

Cancer can't kill Deborah Shockey's spirit; QUIZ: How much do you know about men's health? Multiple meds may spell trouble for seniors

MOST READ

1. More homeless students attending Frederick public schools
2. For Maryland charities, grounds for optimism as holiday season begins
3. Teen charged as adult in stabbing of Sherwood grad
4. Fatal shooting inside Laurel apartment linked to gambling operation
5. Washington Grove seeks to make 'threatened' status official
6. Neelsville Middle School teacher not guilty in child sex abuse case
7. 2012 All-Gazette field hockey, Montgomery County
8. Residents struggle with living among sex offenders
9. Fillmore hosts Thanksgiving lunch to feed homeless
10. Rockville 10-year-old's Ride On route to school raises questions

Post a Comment

[Terms of Service](#)

You must **LOG IN** before you can post comments.

Number of Comments: 0

[Click to Show or Hide Comments](#)
Be the first to comment.

Copyright © 2012 Post-Newsweek Media, Inc./Gazette.Net
[Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [FAQ](#) | [E-Letters](#) | [Place Classified Ad](#) |
The Gazette | 9030 Comprint Court | Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | main number: 301-670-2565, classifieds: 301-670-2500