

2020 AENJ MEMBER EXHIBIT

VIRTUAL EXHIBIT • MAY 2020



Lora Marie Durr
Things I Wish I Had to Eat #1
Oil on Canvas
16 x 20

For the past three years, I have been working with food as a muse. Since our state has been on lockdown, I decided to create series of paintings that celebrates the food that I miss from restaurants that I love visiting with friends and family. This meat and cheese board was from Farinolio in Westfield, NJ.



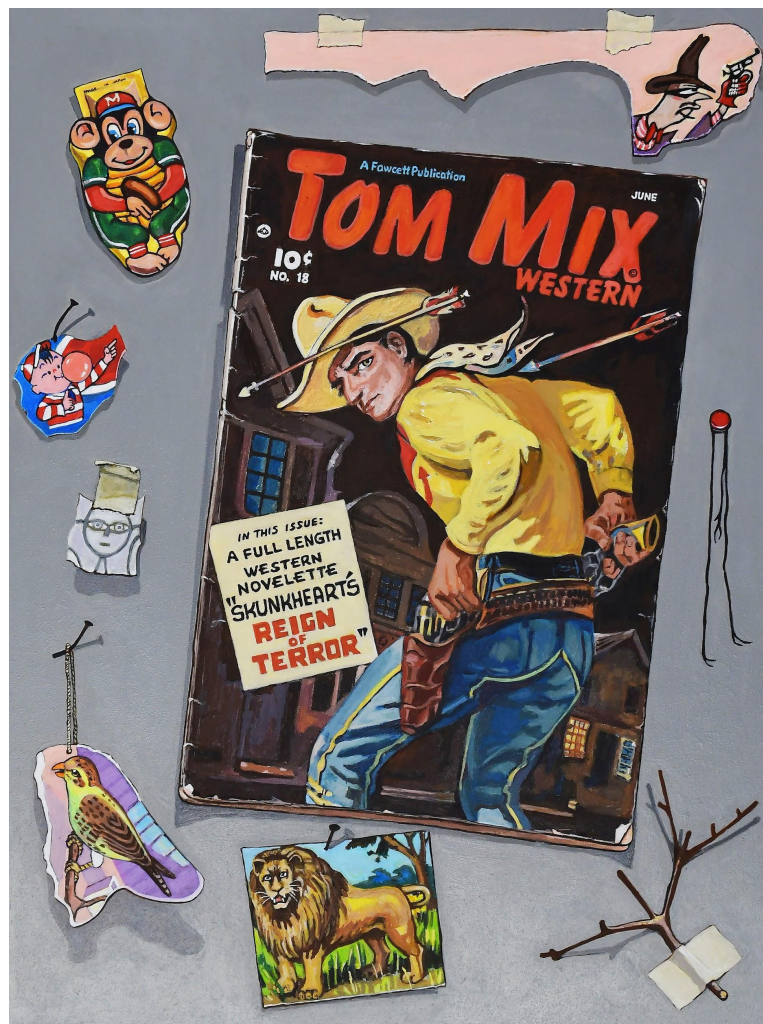


Michelle Harpster
Social Distancing
Digital Photograph
9 x 12

Given the current social climate and the lack of human contact brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic I decided to create a work which would document this specific moment in time. Limiting social contact and the use of face coverings have since become ubiquitous within our society. Bustling cities, parks, and shops have been reduced to ghost towns while we all strive to make it through this unprecedented time. When going out in public we must now don a mask, an item which has now become an extension of ourselves. The work I have created is a self-portrait with a superimposed image that cautions the use of recreational areas. I am depicted wearing my novel "accessory" waiting for all the uncertainty and upheaval to pass like the rest of the globe.

Edward Ruggieri
Breathe in the Sun
Acrylic. 9 x 12





Kirsten Kraa
Tom Mix
 Acrylic. 16 x 20



Tom Mix is a trompe-l'oeil painting that reflects my childhood memories, hobbies, and passions. Growing up in Denmark and Germany, I was an avid collector of comic books and children's ephemera. I selected similar images for this painting to narrate an imaginary journey of action, humor, and tension. In addition, I designed an "Everyman" that stares at the viewer. This image is affixed to all of my artwork. My continuous influences are Roy Lichtenstein and Ulfert Wilke who were my art teachers.

Jill Alexander
Women of the Blue Pearl
Oil on wood panel
30 x 30



My work celebrates the places where, despite modernization, the vibrant simple life continues. This painting celebrates the women of Chefchaouen who I found to be heroic, beautiful, and powerful.





Gillian Furniss
Boating Pond at Central Park
Papercutting. 15 x 20

I was an artist-in-residence at The Art Students League of New York at Vytlačil Campus in upstate New York. I make en plein air sketches of surrounding areas. I transfer these landscape drawings into papercutting such as *Boating Pond in Central Park, New York*. I am inspired by multi-sensory lived experiences that are emotionally embedded. This is a scene from the Central Park Boathouse and Pond in New York City. My father described how as a boy he sailed miniature model sailboats during summer. Later, my children and I spent time here sitting on a park bench.





Ann Marie K. Pai

During this time I find comfort and peace painting memories of the Big Island of Hawaii.

Place of Refuge. Acrylic on canvas. 18 x 24

Jennifer DiZefalo
Nature, History, Flesh
Mixed Media
8 x 8



This mixed media piece was completed during the first few days of quarantine. When considering a theme, I wanted to demonstrate ways we are connected as human beings. The areas filled with strokes of skin tones and deep reds exemplify flesh and blood. The vintage wrapping paper included was saved by my grandmother. We are joined by history. The final connection highlighted is nature, which is represented by the butterfly.





Karen Mannino
Loki
Charcoal on toned paper
22 x 30



Susan Shelton
William at Columbia
Watercolor/Micron Pen
8 x 10





Lori Raggio
Portia
Oil on canvas. 24 x 36

This painting is part of a series of work entitled, *Made for Each Other, Soulmates*. The title is *Portia* and her great love is Bassanio. Portia is blessed with beauty and heavenly qualities surpassing all other women on Earth. She was heir to a fortune and was unable to choose her lover freely. Portia's suitors had to pass a test in which they had to choose from three caskets. Bassanio being poor and in debt, came to choose a casket and Portia fell in love with him at first sight.



Martha Garcia
Live Free
Oil on Canvas
16 x 20

I was inspired to create this still life painting because of the words on the license plate "Live Free", which is the title of the painting. This is a great reminder that we live in a country based on freedom and democracy, which we should not take for granted.



Monica Schraiber Otero
After the Rain
India Ink. 18 x 24



Bridget Lamperti
Green
Clay
17.5 x 12

I started the pot as away to show my students how to create their own piece. It took on a life of its own moving and shifting into the organic shape that it is. Working with clay brings me a sense of calm and I feel my work conveys that sense as well.



Terry Scutro
La Mamma di Gesualdo
Graphite
12 x 12





The Chess Players. Oil. 24 x 30

Michelle Dillon

The person on the left is my 88-year-old father, Robert, who lives in a nursing home. He is an inspiration to me. After many years of hardship, prior to going to the nursing home, he looks to bring happiness to others, namely the residents and staff, either through singing, telling jokes, playing chess, and sharing the little he has. (He is currently in the hospital with COVID-19 but is expected to be released soon. He is a survivor in more ways than one!)



Kristen Barth
The Human Experiment
Paper quilling. Acrylic on canvas board
8 inches



Is human existence pre-programmed? I imagined how the pan-dimensional overlords view our world.



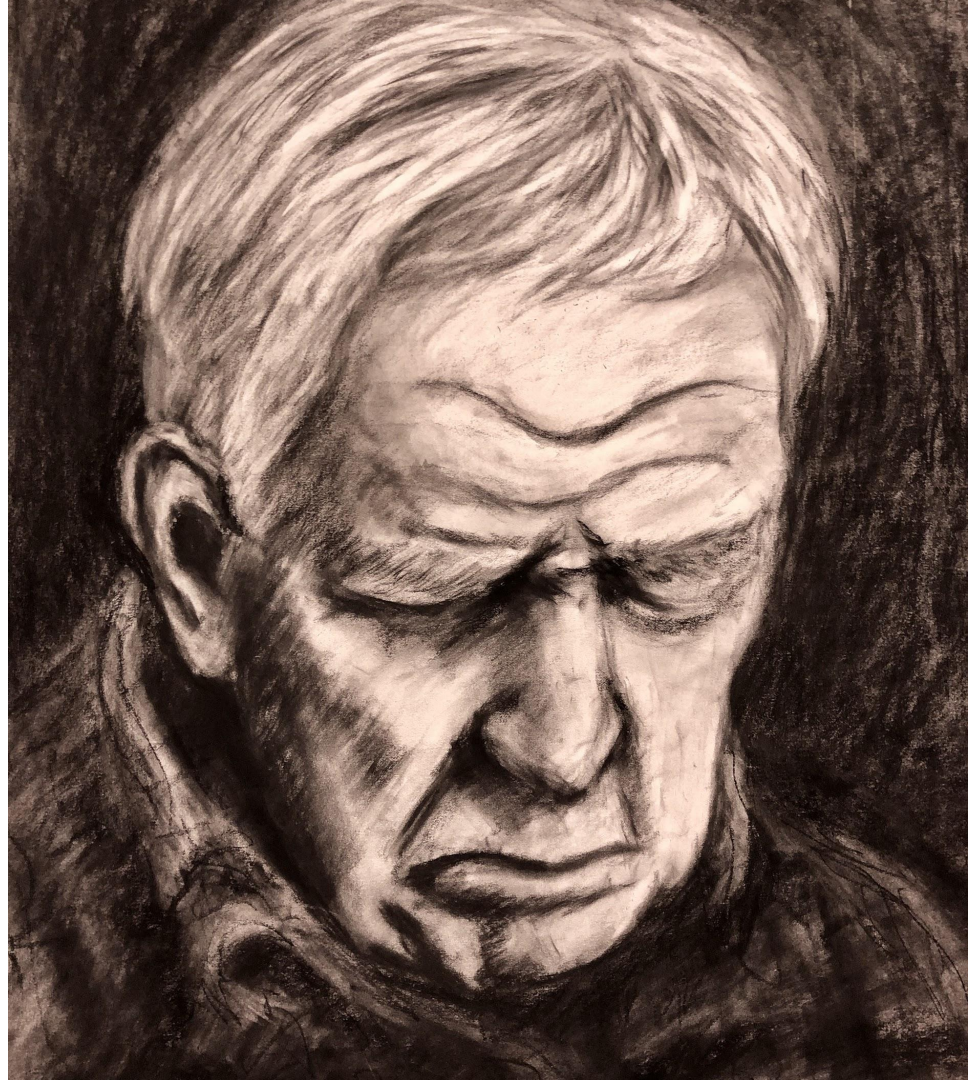


Michael Mergner
Stacked
Glass.Bead.Wire
1.5 x .5

I feel like nature inspired me when making
this piece.



Carolyn McGrath
James
Charcoal on paper
18 x 24



Kim DeFibaugh
Airing the Quilts
Fabric.Floss.Batting
41 x 37.5



I created this embroidered, appliquéd, hand-quilted, and tied wall hanging to share the story of six patriots in my Huyler-Lyon lineage who were farmers in NJ. Embroidered hills represent spring (farmers plowing, hoeing, and sowing), summer (blooming crops) and fall (farmers tossing hay). A clothesline of mini quilts honors each patriot's Revolutionary War service.





Liz Stamm
Sunset Ride
Watercolor
7.5 x 9.5

My watercolor painting *Sunset Ride* was inspired by two of my children. During this shelter in place order our family has been taking evening bike rides to see the sunset. As my son, John, and daughter, Carolyn, were riding they grabbed hands. It was a sweet moment I wanted to capture in a painting.



Tenley Escoffery
Tree of Life
Charcoal on paper
9 x 9





Margaret Marzullo
Christian
Oil
24 x 36

Jesse Wright

Michelle Made It To The Elders Table

Acrylic, Posters, Paper, Paint labels on wood
8 x 4 ft

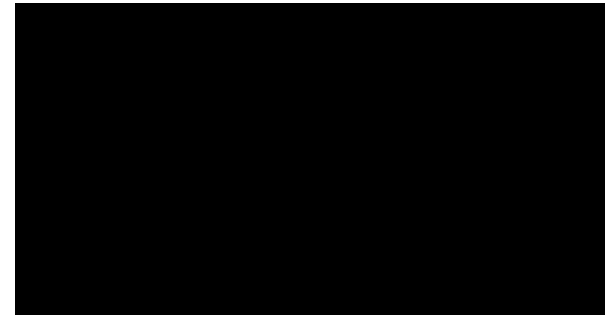
“No Rule, Multiply Alpha”.

A series in progress. A thesis refined.

Recently the KJV Bible was translated into patios (Jamaican vernacular). It's providential timing. This series documents narratives found in the Jamaican side of my family communicated stylistically in their color and vibrancy while simultaneously serving as allegory for biblical scripture. Here my sister is finally welcomed with a seat at the Elders table during a funeral/life celebration. Likewise, we consider Jamaica's position within global social, economical and political constructs. Although referencing “The Last Supper”, here the sacramental elements are replaced by traditional Jamaican foods such as ackee, callaloo, and saltfish. Additional inspiration and choice of words included can be found in the work of Jamaican sign painters including Kemel Leeford Rankine.



Progress video clip





Linda Lavin
Oliver
Oil
12 x 12

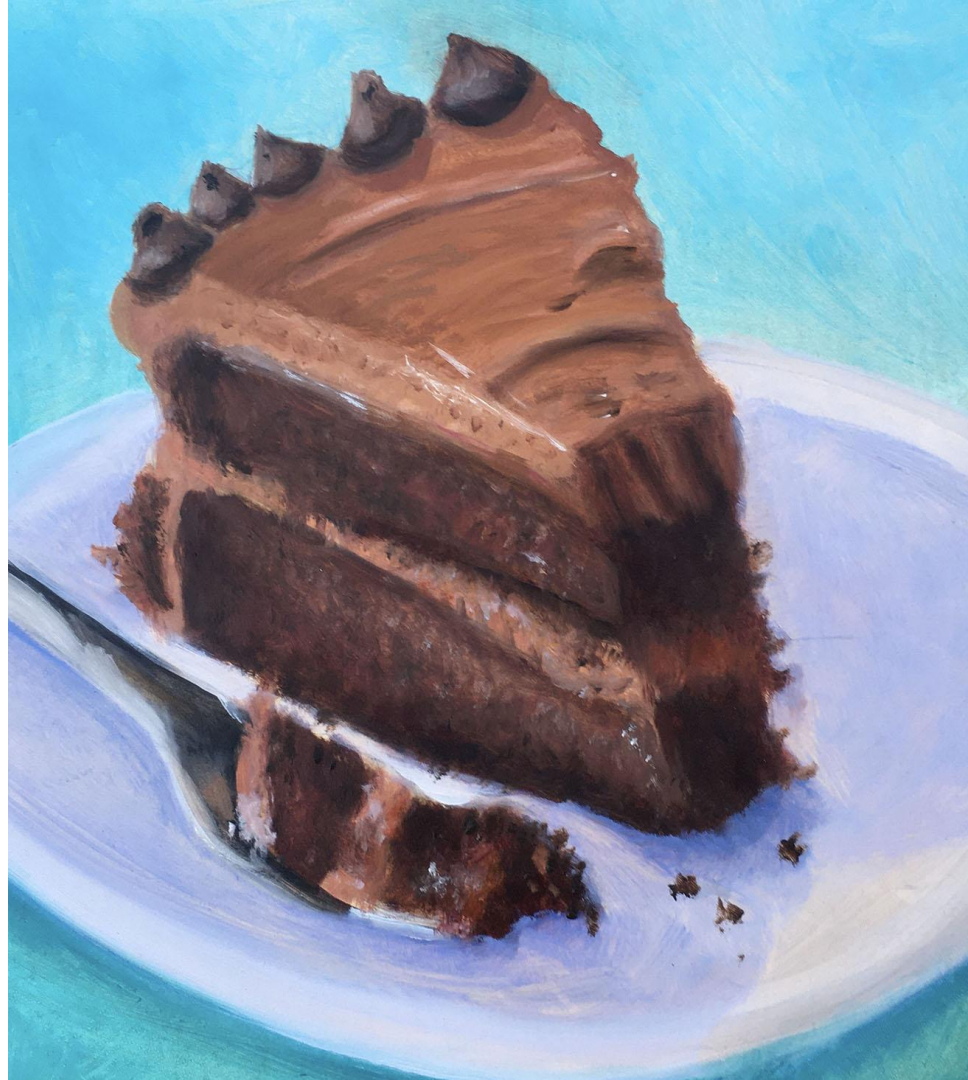


Rebecca Singleton
Ode to Mom
Acrylic
18 x 24

Lisa Encke
Death by Chocolate
Oil. 8 x 8



Death by Chocolate was part of a series of six compositions focusing on the art of food. I wanted to create small and simple still life compositions. This study was fun because I was able to explore the rich impasto of the chocolate icing. My preferred medium is oil paint as I enjoy the texture, full color and flexibility that oil paint allows.





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thank you for your continued support and participation.