

ART LIFE BRIEFS



Indian excursion inspires Laundry Masala

Baltimore artists Emily C-D and Jessie Unterhalter spent 101 days traveling through India while drawing, painting, collecting paper, taking pictures, cutting and collaging. See their creations and celebrate the opening of their exhibit Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Whole Gallery, located at 405 W. Franklin St. on the third floor of the H&H Warehouse in Baltimore. DJ Woman will be spinning the sounds of the subcontinent.

The exhibit will be on view through May 11. For details, visit laundrymasala.blogspot.com.

DIY screen printing

Learn the use of stencils and passing ink through screens during Ladyfest's screen-printing workshop 1 to 1:50 p.m. Saturday in the Clark Room at 2640 St. Paul St. in Baltimore. Ladyfest Baltimore is a community-based festival created by and for women to present, celebrate and encourage women's artistic, entrepreneurial and cultural achievements. For details, visit loadoffun.net.



Photos captures babies' inquisitive nature, innocence

More than 30 photographs by the Annapolis photographer Connie Groah are included in "The Big Book of Babies." The 384-page book captures babies' first years in black-and-white photographs with drawings, stories and quotes. For more information about Groah, visit barefoot-photo.com.

Art in the Park returns

The popular "open-air art and eclectic market" in Hampden kicks off its season Saturday. Through October, Art in the Park will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Art in the Park, organized by The Mill Valley Cultural Arts Umbrella, will be in Roosevelt Park on the corner of Falls Road and 36th Street. The events will feature artists, crafters, antiques vendors and food stands, as well as musical performances and arts-based activities. For more information, visit millvalleyarts.org.



Time's running out

There's just one week left to see Ann Kagan's large, expressionist acrylic paintings and mixed media on canvas at the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Gallery. Inspired by forms and colors in nature, Kagan depicts subjects including flowers, landscapes, wind, skies, stars, hearts and figures. The exhibit is located at The Gordon Center for Performing Arts, 3506 Gwynnbrook Ave. in Owings Mills. For more information, or to arrange for a group tour, call Nancy Goldberg, 410-356-7469, press 5

Ghanaian exposes children to African traditions

Artist Anansegramam, of Ghana, will begin a residency with Howard County Arts Council's Head Start in Art program later this month. The program will introduce preschool children from low-income families to West African traditions through songs, dance and games, focusing on topics such as "cooperation, courage, hope, caring and sharing." The residency will begin April 17 and end with a final performance May 22 at the Howard County Center for the Arts black box theater. The goal of Head Start in Art is to provide children with an in-depth, hands-on artistic experience that they might otherwise never have. Call 410-313-2787 or visit hocoarts.org for more information. - Compiled by Jessica Novak



Art from the afterlife

By Jessica Novak
Examiner Staff Writer

While suffering cardiac arrests, Chaplain Joe Hart's patients stepped outside their bodies and felt the warm glow others have recounted.

Their near-death experiences inspired Hart's abstract and realist paintings on display in Blessed Union of the Souls.

As the director of Spiritual Support Services at Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Hart counsels patients struggling with coronary disease and their families.

Quotes from his patients during the last 25 years will appear beside his work in the exhibit.

What material inspired this work?

The exhibit is based on the journey I have made as a companion with those who have had near-death or out-of-body experiences. Over the years, I have journaled the stories and reflections patients chose to tell me in recounting their experiences.

How did you turn your words and patients' words into paintings?

My creative process is a mystical experience much like patients' experiences who I have journeyed with. I'm a spiritual man, and my prayer

and reflection becomes my creative inspiration. I think or pray, and that become ideas that I create on larger pieces of paper and canvas.

What do you want viewers to gain from the exhibit?

The experience will be an exploration into the sacred that allows opportunity to reflect on that which is beyond this life. Many call it peace, others call it heaven or paradise. Whatever or however you may describe it or dream it, it's a place of wonder, exploration and new life. Each piece is numbered and has a quote from the patient who inspired me to create the image you will see.

What informed your color choices?

The color is inspired through patients and what they saw, an accurate representation of storytelling, if you will. They tell me they saw variety of colors, and I tried to honor their stories while interpreting [them] as an artist.

How have your patients responded to your artworks?

The exhibit has been 25 years in the making, and I didn't keep in touch with all of the patients. I promised I would never reveal their names, but I did get their permission to use their quotes in creating my art.

jnovak@baltimoreexaminer.com

If you go

The Blessed Union of Souls

- » **When:** April 14 through May 14
- » **Where:** Bon Secours Spiritual Center, 1525 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville
- » **Info:** 410-442-1320, bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org

Quotes from anonymous patients whose stories inspired Hart's paintings:

"I could see the team working on me during my heart attack, as I lifted from my body I entered a rotunda with columns were all around me, beyond the columns was bright yellow light beckoning me to come forward, as I began to move toward it, I came back into my body."

"As I looked down at the CPR team beating my chest, there was frustration and determination, I saw steps floating in front of me, inviting to move on to the next plateau. The steps seem to float but I was able to navigate until I felt being pulled back into my body."

My TOPS DIRECT
THE COUNTERTOP EXPERTS

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
THROUGH THE MONTH OF APRIL

*No Minimum Purchase • Huge Granite Inventory • No Color Restrictions

FINANCING AVAILABLE MARINER FINANCE
*12 Months same as cash *Subject to approval

It's worth the ride...visit our direct warehouse, and save!

10521-C Industrial Park Rd., White Marsh, MD 21162
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am to 4:30pm, Sat. 9am to 4pm

443-461-1399 • www.mytopsdirect.com MHIC # 79719



AUTHORIZED DEALER

SILESTONE
INCORPORATED

LA040508MTDBE