

NEXTACTART Our Planet in Peril

The beauty of our planet and the detrimental effect human “advancements” have on our lives are front and center in this NextActArt show honoring Earth Day. With eyes wide open, we search for ways we as individuals, a nation, and world can make constructive change to protect our environment and its inhabitants.

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

BARBARA BRIER

After a lengthy break, I recently returned to the visual arts. My interest in photography led me to collage and the ‘new world’ of photo manipulation captivated me. Today, my work is essentially a combination of my own photos (in original form and/or manipulated) and paper collage, with the addition of another medium as needed.

As a rule, I find a photo I particularly like and, because I am captivated by connections, search my files for things that complement or contrast, following the direction the initial piece dictates. When a work demands something more, I add ink, oil pastels, paint, etc., and voilà: mixed media!

Photographically, I am attracted to the juxtaposition of old and new. So, I sometimes shoot, collage, then shoot again and use pieces of one collage in another.

RENA DIANA

The underlying geometric shapes and intricate linear patterns of both the natural and urban worlds intrigue and delight me. They enkindle my imagination and a reverence for the elegant beauty that surrounds us in the most humble, ordinary spaces, as we walk through village and city, forest and field.

My paintings are abstract renderings, pared down to essential elements, overlapped and intertwined, with a wide range of palettes, from bold and vibrant to more muted and subdued. Over the past three years, my art has primarily been inspired by the glacially carved shoreline of Lake Champlain and the magical interplay of light, wind, stones and water.

MADELINE FARR

Madeline Farr is a mixed media abstract artist, working with paint, collage and photography. She describes her work as “stimulated by the world we live in and the connections we have to one another.” She goes on to say, “I comment and react to what I see and feel needs to be said about human relationships and the world around me.”

As, a co-founder and owner of BFM Gallery, Madeline was recognized as being among the first to introduce one-of-a-kind American contemporary crafts to the New York interior design community. She was a partner in the Madison Avenue gallery PM and Stein, where the focus was on young and upcoming American artists. Enlisted by the Home Editor following trends for “City Living” and “At Home”, she free-lanced for the Home sections of both the New York and Long Island Newsday.

From 2007 - 2015, Madeline was an instructor for Odyssey Art At Sea. There, she taught watercolor on cruise ships giving her the opportunity to visit exotic Ports throughout the world. In recent

years, she has been able to devote more time to creating her own art. Her studio is on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Madeline is a founding partner of NextActArt, which includes a group of artists who meet monthly to discuss art, plan events, exhibit their work, donate some of the proceeds to non-profit organizations and engage the community.

MADLYN GOLDMAN

My father was a saver so it is no accident that I am drawn to recycled materials. Searching for and finding these discarded objects at flea markets, junkyards and garage sales is an integral part of my process. The challenge is to combine disparate found pieces along with my handcrafted elements to give them new life and personality as a “member of the family”. I work spontaneously and intuitively constantly reassessing the progress of each piece. Each action informs the next until a distinct identity emerges and a character is born. I love making these quirky pieces with their playful personalities and their thoughtfully matched names. It is my hope that my “extended family”, with its gritty and whimsical flavor, will evoke a sense of delight and amusement.

RONNIE GRILL

I use my life adventures and world travels for inspiration to my mixed media and watercolor paintings. Handmade papers, photographs, color, and shapes are used to create a sense of movement and balance in my work.

JUDY KAPLAN

I am a former teacher who has always loved the arts. After retiring I took a collage class and was hooked in more ways than one -- my obsession became making fish out of paper. I love color, texture and

patterns and have expanded into mixed media, creating a world of fantasy. Papers and art supplies have taken over my apartment and my life.

PATRICIA MILLER

As an artist, I ask myself what role can I play to support preservation of the environment? My consciousness about the beauty and vulnerability of nature has been heightened by both the global climate crisis and by my stage of life, which allows more time for reflection. Every landscape awakens the senses and makes one aware of the uniqueness of different environments. Glaciers are seen chunking and melting in my work, while a rain forest shows various types of trees sharing the soil's nutrients peacefully, as we would wish for in a multi-cultural world.

Using collage and mixed media/assemblage, I attempt to transform the amazing phenomenon of nature into expressive images. These media enable me to interpret the natural world partly in abstraction, partly in reality. I use a composite of personal photographs, found and hand-made paper, acrylics, pastels, and objects (e.g. stones, shells, sand, bark, clay) and multiple gels, such as crackle, glass bead, lava, modeling paste, which add texture and depth.

STEPHANIE SUSKIN


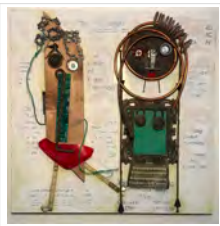


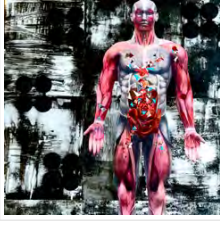
For me, creating art is the counterbalance to the noise and chaos of life. I am a mixed media artist - an urban dweller with a soul deeply rooted in nature - who finds inspiration everywhere. I have not yet encountered a creative medium I did not want to explore. My art expresses what I've learned about all these varied materials and techniques, combining, and integrating them in forms that range from collage to encaustic and from painting to found-object sculpture.


SHEILA WOLPER


Using found photographs and photographs of my vintage toy collection, I create an alternative, dream-like world of distorted reality. Delving below the surface of the existing stereotypes of men, women, and children, I explore their complexity through visual narratives. The fears, fantasies, and magical thinking of young children and the struggles facing women in today's society are a consistent focus in my work. Juxtaposition of myriad images, through photo transfer and collage, create facial and physical distortions of the people, toys, and animals that inhabit this fantasy universe. Using gesso, acrylic paint, and oil pastels I create multi-layered backgrounds of extraordinary texture and depth. My images float or are anchored within this milieu and reflect a world where the fine line between fantasy and reality is ambiguous.


Our Planet in Peril


Mar 24, 2022 - Apr 20, 2022 · #534, 548 W 28th St, New York, US

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- 1-9.  **NEXTACTART** \$350 each
Drowning in Plastic, 2022
Mixed Media
*See attached list for more information
12 x 12 inches each
10.  **MADELYN GOLDMAN** \$1,200
Thelma and Louise Go Green, 2022
Mixed Media
30 x 30 inches
Overheard conversation between Thelma and Louise.
“How can we take better care of our planet?”
“I wish these broken/discarded fragments weren’t available to use to create us.”
“Society has not put a priority on dealing with the process of channeling ‘disposal’ items into ‘renewable’ forms.”
“Maybe if we all ‘go green’ we can have a more environmentally friendly planet.”
11.  **BARBARA RUBIN BRIER** \$1,200
Make Art, Not Trash, 2022
Mixed Media
30 x 30 inches
I shot a photo of this clogged drain because the sky was reflected in the water. Later, I noticed the trash shapes, shadow and water made it look like a globe. Enlarging and augmenting it with similar trash is meant to communicate the damage discarded debris does to our planet.
12.  **PATRICIA MILLER** \$1,200
A Day at The Beach – 2032, 2022
Mixed Media
30 x 30 inches
By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. Despite knowledge that toxins from plastic have entered the food chain threatening our health, we have not limited our use of plastic. If each of us breaks the habit and stops using 1 or 2 plastic products, it’s a step in the right direction!
13.  **SHEILA WOLPER** \$1,200
Body Pollution, 2022
Mixed Media
30 x 30 inches
Humans consume the equivalent of a credit card worth of plastic every week! Our food, drinking water and air are contaminated by microplastics that are endangering our lives. The long-term toxicity of plastic within our organs, tissues, and cells predicts a bleak future for all living creatures.


14.  **PATRICIA A. MILLER** \$1,200
 Playing with Fire, 2022
 Mixed Media
 30 x 30 inches
 Our interdependent forests nurture all humans, animals, and plant life. Are we in turn reciprocating by providing them the same care? Methane and other noxious chemicals are ever present, causing temperatures to rise annually, resulting in even greater susceptibility to fires. We can't afford to lose the fight!

15.  **MADELINE FARR** \$1,200
 Breath Free, 2022
 Mixed Media
 30 x 30 inches
 Thinking of our amazing planet and the unthinking way we are neglecting and mistreating it. This Earth Day I celebrate the beauty of trees. Under threat by deforestation and fire, trees contribute to the environment by improving air quality - taking in carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

16.  **RONNIE GRILL** \$1,200
 Who Doesn't Like Mushrooms!, 2022
 Mixed Media
 30 x 30 inches
 How might we protect ourselves from rising temperatures? One way is to allow fungi to grow in forests and around other plants. A portion of the mushroom, Mycelium, plays a crucial role in eliminating toxins. By hiding carbon, which keeps climate-warming carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, mushrooms contribute to a healthier planet!

17.  **RENA DIANA** \$1,200
 Source, 2022
 Mixed Media
 30 x 30 inches
 "In the beginning was the mounting fire
 That set alight the weathers from a spark...
 Life rose and spouted from the rolling seas,
 Burst in the roots, pumped from the earth and rock."
 -Dylan Thomas

Spirals of stardust and surf, cells, and souls. Fierce and fragile, our glorious planet.

18.  **STEPHANIE SUSKIN** \$1,200
 Pollinators in Peril, 2022
 Mixed Media
 30 x 30 inches
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