

Media Release

Thursday, June 24, 2010

1-Year Retrospective Group Exhibit

A group exhibit by local contemporary artists in celebration of the gallery's first year anniversary

One year after converting the medical offices of Dr. Santina Malaguti, A Mano Libera Gallery is celebrating its first year of operation by inviting back all who have contributed to its success: the Niagara-based artists who have exhibited since last spring.

After the inaugural show featuring resident artists Beverley Barber, Jerry Manco and gallery owner, Santina Malaguti, the gallery has showcased a dozen regional up-and-coming and established visual artists - with month-long exhibits changing every 6 to 8 weeks.

Diverse themes, ranging from "Here & Now" to "Figuralescent" attest to the gallery's vision of promoting creative and contemporary works of art by providing a "stepping-off point" for Niagara-based artists.

"With each exhibit, the gallery has gained momentum, establishing its reputation and having an impact on Niagara's arts and culture scene. Local establishments and wineries are taking notice. Our consultation services are picking up. All this is to better promote the procurement of original contemporary art in Niagara by Niagara artists. There truly is a wealth of talent here and it's just a matter of time before more original works grace regional public spaces and enrich residents' homes." stated Julie Johanis, communications director.

Over the course of the summer months, A Mano Libera Gallery is featuring one or two pieces by a each of the participating artists (see list below) in an eclectic Retrospective show which opens on Friday July 9th, from 6-9 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception sponsored by Hillebrand Winery. The exhibit is open to the public each Saturday and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. until August 22, 2010.

The summer wraps up with a special event by Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation. The gallery is exhibiting an Art Quilt Exhibition: the result of the creative healing journey of individuals affected by cancer, through Wellspring Niagara's Art Therapy and Quilting programs. The exhibit is open to the public Saturday and Sunday, (August 28-29) from 1-5 p.m. with an opening reception on Friday August 27, 2010 from 6 - 9 p.m.

1-Year Retrospective Group Exhibit Participating Artists

Beverley Barber (mixed media)

"For me, to participate in the creative process is a huge honor that leaves me in a constant state of gratitude. To inject "life energy" into paper, canvas and clay created a feeling of elation that keeps me coming back time and again. This process is a "life-line", an outward reflection of my life's journey that serves as a silent "watchman", witness to my growth as an artist and a person."

Geoff Farnsworth (oil on panel)

Geoff uses bright Pop colours and brushwork with painterly effects in exploring portraiture. While beginning his art training in Vancouver at Capilano College, Emily Carr, and the Federation of Canadian Artists, Farnsworth then went on to the Art Students League in Manhattan, New York from 1997 to 2002.

John Gill (twist ties)

John Gill crafts sketches and sculptures by bending and tying twist ties together into masterpieces. John studied Visual Arts and Education at Brock University and has taught "Artwist" at schools across the region.

William Griffiths (acrylic on canvas)

"Challenging the physical properties of acrylic paint is an ongoing process for me. It's what drives me to create. I'm constantly searching for new methods outside the norm to express myself. Colour, texture and depth are all tools I use to bridge the unorthodox and traditional acts of painting. Leaving myself open to chance and mistakes is an integral part of my process as it gives way to new ideas."

Sheila Krack (mixed media)

Sheila uses a unique combination of form and colour to create her paintings. She brings a love of colour, texture and nature to her works. Her mixed media creations have evolved from years of conventional art and reflect the beauty of nature, engaging the viewer's imagination.

Duncan MacDonald (mixed media)

Duncan MacDonald is a contemporary artist and assistant professor at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. His artworks take form in diverse media such as audio art, performance, video, music, installation and drawing - often exploring the corporeal sensorium and its commodification.

Santina Malaguti (oil on canvas)

"Art tells a story, it is a reflection of society.

My art is an extension of me, a reflection of my life.

*I try to tell a story and I hope viewers go
where I show them.*

Art is true.

It's who you are and where you have been."

Jerry Manco (photography)

"Photography lets me see more than the lens shows.

Every detail expresses the beauty of the moment.

*With no more than a digital nudge, I aim to transform these
out-of-the-ordinary places into patches of colour, light and texture, improving ever so slightly on
their natural wonder, making them out-of-this-world."*

Carley O'Hara (oil on canvas)

*Carley is currently a Visual Arts Honors student at Brock University and is a gallery clerk at A
Mano Libera Gallery. She has a fascination with candlelight situations cast on already
existing objects. How this simple act can change the interpretation of the object and play
tricks on the eyes.*

Julia Prudhomme (mixed media)

*Julia is currently a Visual Arts Honors student at Brock University and is a gallery clerk at A
Mano Libera Gallery. Utilizing both digital and physical mediums, she is interested in the
patterns of the everyday where temporality and perception affect the human condition.*

Bill Ralph (photographic prints from generated algorithms)

*Ralph became fascinated by the idea of using algorithms to generate abstract images. From
early, simple graphic illustrations of mathematical models, he proceeded to create images of
increasing complexity.*

*In a sense, each image is a window into the intersection of the two great universes of
mathematics and fine art. It has taken Ralph many years of experimentation to acquire the
techniques used in the images in this show in part, he says, "because the process is very much
like creating a sculpture from a pile of leaves by blowing on them."*

Alexander (Sandy) Rasmussen (acrylic on canvas)

Alexander (Sandy) Rasmussen is a painter who grew up in the Niagara region and gained a great confidence painting contemporary abstract expressionism, and is heavily influenced by nature. His paintings are very intuitive and often times spontaneous, yet distinctively his. Sandy attended Emily Carr University in Vancouver last year and now attends St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Sandy accredits his abilities to both his grandfather Verner Heinar, and his art instructors from his education at Ridley College and Emily Carr. He is currently pursuing a degree in Sociology.

Janet Read (oil on canvas)

"My paintings engage with the land, the light and the sea. They refer to the field lines: the small fields drawn by human lives against a rocky mountain. The fields erode in wind and growth. The light picks up hidden lines and the signs of human work on the land. I pick up a brush and paint the edges, field against field, land against sea and sky. I pick up a brush and aim for the light."

David T Wright (oil on canvas)

David trained as a painter in England, receiving a Masters' degree in Fine Art in 1972. He has exhibited extensively in Canada, the USA and Mexico since arriving in Toronto in 1972. His paintings are appreciated for their subtlety of colour, touch, and naturalist observation, balanced by a fine sense of painterly qualities.

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays: 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

The gallery is owned by Santina Malaguti who is a local physician and a contributing artist.

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Julie Johanis

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Communications and Marketing

A Mano Libera Gallery

<http://www.amanoliberagallery.com/>

A Mano Libera Gallery is an enthusiastic supporter of a new Niagara Centre for the Arts in downtown St. Catharines.