

SOMERSET *art* ASSOCIATION
WHERE THE VISUAL ARTS FLOURISH IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH**SPECIAL EVENTS****MEMBERSHIP****JOHNSON GALLERY****2009 Gallery Exhibits****Non-Juried Members Exhibit**

Exhibit Dates: July 9 – August 28
Artists' Reception Thursday, July 9
6:00-8:00 pm

Over 100 original works of art in a variety of media and styles will be on view. The public is welcome to attend the reception. Light hors d'oeuvres & refreshments will be served.

Award Winners**BEST IN SHOW**

John Henry
"Veil of Perversion" - Oil

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jinnie May
"Filling in the Hours Between Lunch and Dinner" - Watercolor

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Seppo Siimes
"Tranquility" - Oil

HONORABLE MENTION

Rose Marie Rodin
"Eternal Flame" - Sculpture

HONORABLE MENTION

Pat Barnabeo
"Thistle" - Monoprint

HONORABLE MENTION

Lane Scarano
"Fortress of St, George" - Charcoal

Raising Breast Cancer Awareness through the Power of the Visual Arts

"Image Early" by Marion Behr

October 4 to 31, 2009

Public Reception
Sunday, October 4, 2:00-4:00 pm

Generously Sponsored by Ortho-McNeil

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, SAA member and artist Marion Behr was inspired by the Alpha Cradles® which meld to a woman's torso to keep the body still during radiation, to create using these forms, sculptural totems expressive of the myriad of emotions felt by cancer patients during their journey of treatment, hope and survival.



Shadow of a Doubt

The artist explains, "The radiation cradles were lined up on the shelves, one on top of another, shelf after shelf. I was lying on top of one of them on a sort of bed, waiting for my first treatment. Initially there was some anxiety but then my focus kept going back to the cradles and to all of the women who bravely laid here before me. 'What were their feelings during their cancer treatments?' In my mind the cradles took the form of sculptures representing other patients and their emotions, as well as mine. It was then that I decided to turn these blue plastic flat forms into abstract figures that would encourage others to get an early mammogram the same way my kids encouraged me."

The Alpha Cradles® are bent and reshaped by Marion to create totems suggestive of the female torso to which she adds different textures, color and collage elements. Each sculpture stands on a plinth raising the height of the work to that of an average sized visitor making interaction with the pieces personal and direct. Some of the sculptures are grouped together as if in conversation inviting the viewer into their visual discourse while others stand apart in fiery defiance or silent meditation.

Intended to evoke feelings, the sculptures' titles are significant. In *Jumping for Joy*, the work's unpainted paper mache surface and playful pose are reminiscent of childhood innocence and the purity of gleeful emotion. In the work *Detox*, the sculpture is blanketed in a patchwork of color swatches; the lower torso edged with muddier tones while brighter hues spread across the upper portion. A bent 'leg' protrudes from the base of the work as if the figure is about to stand and cast off the toxic film which has entrapped it. In *Pre-reconstruction*, the figure's breast is replaced with a rusted plumbing pipe while nails stitched together end to end form jagged pathways which scratch across the surface like fingernails against a chalk board. The image is disturbing, yet upon closer inspection, the vibrant blue fabric underpinning of the cradle peers through as if filling the pipe's circular cavity with a pool of 'water' — a source of life and healing. Not all of the exhibited works, however, are as hopeful. Some appear withdrawn or struggling as if bound to the white plinths on which they are displayed. Another is riddled with cigarette wrappers while others have been joined together united in their fight against breast cancer yet their 'heavenly ascent' reminds viewers that the battle has yet to be won — a cure still and must be found.



Jumping for Joy

The Alpha Cradle® used by the artist during her treatment is also included in the show. Poignantly titled *My Cradle*, the artist defiantly battles with the instrument symbolic of her cancer by transforming it into a beautiful work of art. Bathed in shimmering layers of cool blues and greens, the figure stands erect in a welcoming posture triumphantly proclaiming its creator as an artist defined by her creativity and not by a diagnosis.



Preconstruction

Marion Behr's work is intended to comfort, startle, celebrate, educate and ultimately encourage visitors to "Image Early" in the battle against breast cancer through early detection, good medical practices, caring doctors and necessary research.

About the Artist



Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

A resident of North Branch Station, New Jersey, Marion Behr earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in New York. With her husband Marc Behr, she patented a new acid free, environmentally safe graphic etching process which was listed as the Patent of the Week by the New York Times, 05/02/92. Together they have traveled extensively throughout the United States and countries abroad including Morocco, Canada, and New Zealand lecturing about this break-through process. Her award-winning graphic work is in the collections of the Newark Public Library, United States Embassy in Germany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., Royal Thai Collection, Bangkok, Thailand and the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum among others. She was the recipient of the Charles E. Lindbergh Fund: Grantee for Arts and Humanities, 1993 and the featured artist of the month in August 2005 on the web-site www.jerseyarts.com administered by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. A fervent advocate for women and home-based businesses, Marion founded the National Alliance of Homebased

Businesswomen, the first national professional organization for home workers in the United States, of which she served as both President from 1980 to 1982 and legislative chair from 1982-1985. Her advocacy efforts have been profiled in among others, McCalls, Vogue, Working Woman, Family Circle and Redbook in addition to extensive radio and TV appearances including Donahue, Good Morning America and Woman to Woman.

Other Related Events Hosted by SAA

Panel Discussion Surviving Breast Cancer: Decades of Hope

**Thursday, October 8
6:00-8:00 pm**

Panel discussion comprised of medical experts and women diagnosed during different stages of life. [Click here for details.](#)

"Image Early Benefit"

**Friday, October 23, 2009
7 :30 – 10:00 pm**

Entertainment by Susan Speidel whose sold-out cabaret shows and off-Broadway performances have pleased crowds for over two decades.

Wine & Refreshments, Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts

\$75 per person

Funds will benefit the Somerset Art Association with a percentage of the proceeds donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation

Past Exhibits



Different Strokes Paintings by John Reilly

April 16 to May 16, 2009

**Opening Reception
Thursday, April 16
6:00-8:00 pm**
