

Review: **"bau 13: Noise"** by Abby Luby

Looks like 'Noise'

The Beacon Artist Union is exploring the art of sound with its current exhibit, which features work by four of the member artists.

They say that noise is unwanted sound, but art inspired by the notion of noise can actually give us a visceral sense that awakens our "inner ear." Interestingly,

this concept plays out at the Beacon Artist

Union (bau) gallery's current show, "bau 13: Noise." The four featured artists in this show are Vivian Altman, Gary Jacketti, Harald Plochberger and Egon Zippel.

Special to this show was performance artist Nelson Loskamp who, at the opening reception, exhibited his own form of noise with "Electric Chaircuts." Loskamp, a professional "coiffurist" in New York City, cuts hair with electronically amplified scissor, razors and clippers. The sound was fed through a sampler and broadcast from a small speaker strapped to his back. Loskamp said his hair-cutting performances started in 1989 and require a willing (and unquestioning) volunteer, who

"bau 13: Noise"

Beacon Artist Union (bau), 161

Main St., Beacon

Through Feb. 5

Hours: Saturdays and Sundays,
noon-6 p.m.; and by appointment.

845.440.7584

www.beaconartistunion.com

agrees to be strapped in Loskamp's barber's chair, blindfolded and have his or her mouth taped shut.

"This is a thing about trust," said Loskamp. "It takes a long time for people to trust haircutters with their hair." Paradoxically, Loskamp set up three of his oil paintings of bald men right next to the chair. For many who crowded into the gallery space that night to see the spectacle, with artist Vivian Altman as the first willing volunteer, "Electric Chaircuts" might provide a memory that will add a dimension to future haircuts ... posing, Do cutting implements talk to one another or have private lives?

The show was indeed noisy. Plochberger's interactive "Shots in the Dark" used shock-



Nelson Loskamp giving one of his "Electric Chaircuts" to artist Vivian Altman.

treatment blasts from a paint ball gun that catapulted paint ball ammunition through a long black plastic tunnel. Plochberger informed trigger-happy participants that a hidden Teddy bear was the target. At the end of the evening, the Teddy bear would be revealed as an accompanying artifact in the piece. The idea linked the recent proliferation of legalized bear hunts in the region and how suburban development has encroached on too many wildlife biotic corridors.

Other sound/noise came from Zippel's "Advertising Poetry," a video loop of different people (hear: different voices) reading mass consumer product labels and magazine advertisements. Zippel claimed that reading the ads silently to oneself is a different experience from reading the ads out loud. Hearing the marketing words seems to morph them into inane, nonsensical messages that fast lose their appeal to the intended targeted consumer.

Zippel's other piece, "life/live june 05," was mixed media of purple, yellow, white, magenta and orange Post-its randomly stuck to the wall. The small cluttered patch of Zippel's personal daily notes and scribbles was a splotch of visual noise created by visual fragments or what he called "leftovers."

Stronger, more direct interpretations of visual noise were the 17 abstract works of mixed media on paper by Altman. All the work was displayed together in a uniform

grid. Altman's rich sense of color danced and scrambled on the paper in layers that felt like a push-and-pull, inhaling-and-exhaling. Shapes and forms had hard, rock-like edges that seemed to rumble in canyoned landscapes, while other pieces splashed swaths of color rushing through lines and reverberating swirls. Multi-colored doughnut shapes echoed, bubbling and gurgling from one colored texture to another, and rocking motions from bowed lines gave movement with myriad imagined sounds. Placed all together in a grid, Altman's work created its own special soundscape.

Obliquely connected to the noise theme of the show was Jacketti's work "The noise of the world pollutes the pursuit of wisdom" from his "7 deadly sins" series. Each piece was a framed light box - labeled "Lust," "Greed" and "Wrath" - that layered milky transparent pencil drawings of heads, scribbles and block-lettered words such as "hot, hate, ache" over illuminated X-rays of skulls, hands and teeth. One had a split screen of a hand on one side and a skeletal hand on the other, each lit to show just the hands. Although the titles of the pieces seemed off the mark for this show's theme of noise - they might be the silent antithesis - the works themselves were insightful and delicately executed.

"bau 13: Noise" can be seen until Feb. 5. The gallery is open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. or by appointment. ◊

Harald Plochberger,
"Shots In The Dark," detail.



Photo by Harald Plochberger

galleria :

Hours: Fri. & Sat., noon-9 p.m.; or by appointment
Information: 845.338.8353

Mark Gruber Gallery

New Paltz Plaza, New Paltz

Through Jan. 31: "The Winter Show," annual holiday show.

Hours: Mon., 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information: 845.255.1241

www.markgrubergallery.com

New Paltz Cultural Collective

60 Main Street, New Paltz

Through Feb. 5: "Iraq & Afghanistan: Targeting the Living," photographs by Lorna Tychostup and Connie Frisbee Houde.

Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Information: 845.255.1901

www.lornatychostup.com

Velsani Arts & Antiques

334 Wall Street, Kingston

Ongoing: Exhibit of Mylo Quam paintings and Murano glass.

Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Information: 845.430.3200

Elsewhere in the Valley

Exposed Gallery of Art Photography

Main Square, 318 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

Through Feb. 7: "Twelve Days in Paris," an exhibit featuring the images of award-winning photographer Glenn Cormier.

Hours: Wed.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m.; Mon. & Tues., by appointment.

Information: 518.475.1853

www.exposedartphotography.com

GCCA Mountaintop Gallery

Main Street, Windham

Through Feb. 26: "Landscape 2006," popular annual show featuring paintings, drawings and photographs created by local and regional landscape artists.

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information: 518.734.3104

www.greenarts.org

Katonah Museum of Art

Route 22 at Jay Street, Katonah

Through April 9: "I Love the Burbs," painting, sculpture, photography, prints, video and installation art by contemporary artists based on the theme of suburban life.

Through April 9: "Jim Jenkins: Pinky Dinky Doo," original illustrations from the "Pinky Dinky Doo" book series developed by Waccabuc resident Jim Jenkins, creator of Doug, and based on bedtime stories he told his children.

Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m.; closed Mon.

Information: 914.232.9555

www.katonahmuseum.org

Paramount Center for the Arts

1008 Brown Street, Peekskill

Upper Gallery, through Feb. 5 p.m.:

"Drawings" features the charcoal drawings of Susan Weinreich. This collection of new work by the artist was created during a recent nine-month period in which she worked exclusively with charcoal, exploring themes she typically reserves for oils and pastels. Much of these works form Weinreich's "The Antiquities Collection," drawings

based on 4,000-year-old works of art.

Hours: Tues.-Fri., noon-4 p.m.; Sat., noon-3 p.m.

Information: 914.739.2333

www.paramountcenter.org

The Schoolhouse Gallery

3 Owens Road, Croton Falls

Through Jan. 29: "Westchester's Places, Spaces and Faces," a photography exhibit in celebration of the people and places that give the community its unique character.

Hours: Call for hours.

Information: 914.277.8477

www.schoolhousetheater.org

Windham Fine Arts

5380 Main Street, Windham

Through Feb. 5: "Winter Salon Show," featuring work by Trey Finney, Xiangyuan Jie, Christopher Magadini and Diasuke Tsutsumi.

Hours: Friday-Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information: 518.734.6850

www.windhamfinearts.com