

ART

SHARING SPACE WITHIN THE FRAME

HAVILAND STREET GALLERY UNITES DEXHEIMER, KARPINSKAIA

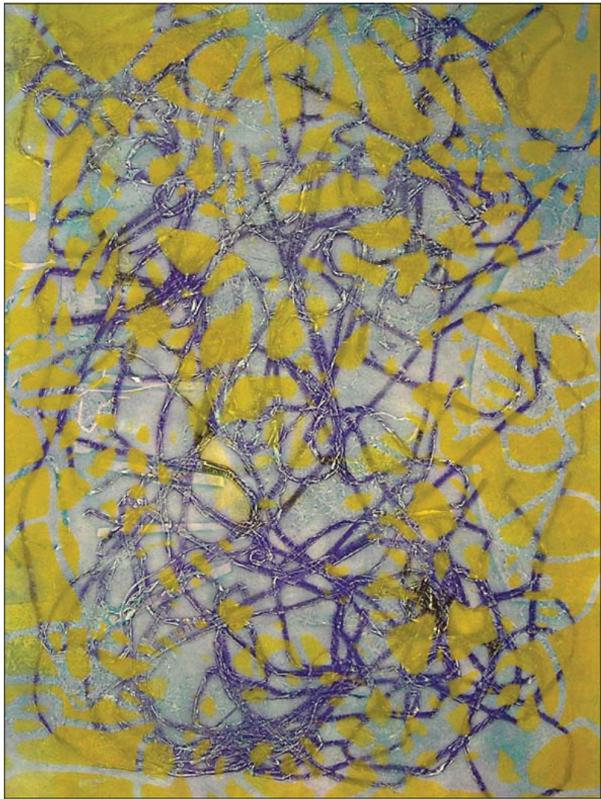
By Abby Luby

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A single work of art created by two artists becomes a visual interpretation of a very unique relationship. Much like partners dancing to music, the artists move together but maintain their identities — identities that complement each other.

Liz Dexheimer and Natasha Karpinskaia are the artists in the show "L'une et l'autre" at 22 Haviland Street Gallery in South Norwalk. Theirs is a collaboration that yields a synergy of styles resulting in intriguing, playful dialogue.

Well-known artist collaborators include Rembrandt and fellow Dutch artist Benjamin Gerritsz Cuyt; then Gauguin sided with Van Gogh



"Sleeping Beauty."



"Scrapbooks."

(which didn't turn out so well); sculptor Claes Oldenburg teamed with Coosje van Bruggen; Gilbert paired with Sullivan; and Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol and Francesco Clemente were the classic pop trio. They all wanted to traverse the same canvas together while flexing their sense of aesthetics, some teams working better than others.

The "monotypes" of Dexheimer and Karpinskaia are created via a printmaking process that allows both artists to volley the work back and forth until it is complete. For many pieces in this show, it ultimately doesn't matter who has made what mark; all forms congeal into one unified work of art.

The small gem "Swimming Pool" is a teaser for this show just as you walk into the Haviland Gallery's welcoming space. The work consists of a thickly textured green ooze interrupted by blue cut paper globules, floating and magnifying as water bubbles like windows into deeper strata.

REVIEW

"Crossing the Yellow Line" clearly delineates the two artists

from each other, but dares to briefly share the space within the frame. One half of the piece has short, thick yellow lines running down the center over a cadmium-like background while crazy jumbled yellow scrawls dance off to one side. It's a left/right hemisphere feel with a spark of yellow jumble escaping to the quieter side speaking to the mind chatter conquering meditative calm.

The artists' bold quirkiness is in the two-part work, "Alice in Wonderland I and II." Opaque, pinkish primitive shapes splay over uninhibited layers of entangled orange lines that peek through transparent pink eyeless "sockets." No delicate waltzing around here; the lines are direct and unabated.

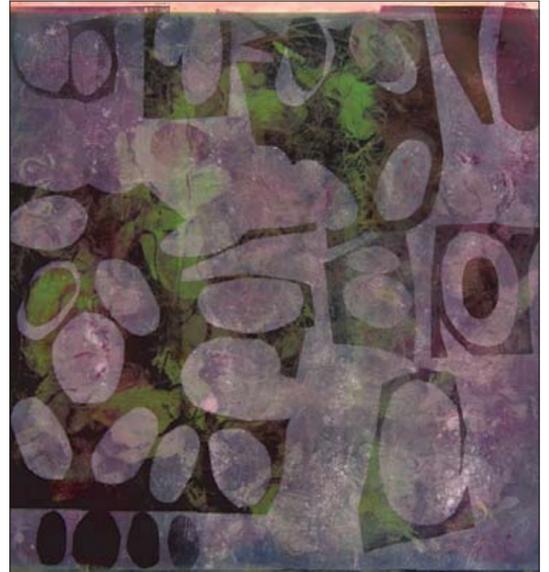
In "Le Cabinet de Curiosite," a curious human form is the centerpiece and commands a gravitational pull from a scheme of haphazard blue and orange thick and thin pulsating lines. Obliquely, the figure could be on a cross, lined arms scaggle perpendicularly out from the sides, a dark halo present over the head.

Using French titles ("L'une et l'autre" literally means "one and the other") is a bit pretentious, but is negated by the strength of the work. The gallery statement indicates that Dexheimer and Karpinskaia are drawn to the "lyrical quality of the French language to sensitively convey the emotional content." It may be that it does, but sometimes the titles distract the viewer.

That being said, "Conversations Telephonique" attracts the viewer with dark cut, glinty splinters of paper randomly peeking through a pink overlay. Dark-blue squares drape down front and top as prayer flags. In "Scrapbooks," more amorphous layering fuses the artists' marks. Definitive bright-orange scribbles stampede through dark, angular patterns as opposing forces. In "One Thousand Pieces," a plethora of sharp jaunty bird-like shapes reverberate between light pinks, grays and greens over a dark background.

The lines in these pieces are the skittery dance that lulls or activates, depending on the energy of the larger, paper cut forms. You can choose to see it as two separate personalities that act in tandem, then decidedly come together. In the very elegant "Lines and Flowers," two separate dark lines within two gray squares are singularly expressive. Heated dreamlike fuchsia and green organic areas surround the cool, lyrical lines redolent of some mysterious calligraphy.

"L'une et l'autre" will be on view through May 27 at 22 Haviland Street Gallery, South Norwalk. Gallery hours are Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 852-6727.



"Alice in Wonderland II."



"One Thousand Pieces I."

Contributed photos



"Le Cabinet de Curiosite."

MAKING THE ART SEEN

ADMISSION TO EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Museums & Nonprofit Venues

THE ALDRICH CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM Arturo Herrera: Castles, Dwarfs, and Happychaps Imagery from children's books and other popular culture sources create a hybrid of works that are familiar and foreign. Through Sept. 2. **The Photograph as Canvas** Explores the technique of making images on the surface of photographs. Through June 10. **David Abir: Tekrar** Sound installation intended to develop an emotional and physical experience from a piece of music. Through June 10. **W(E)AVE** Recent projects by Elena Herzog and Michael Schumacher. Through June 10. **Kysa Johnson: Blow up 73** — the Spores of White Oak, Pine, American Elm and Red Maple Chalk-on-blackboard drawing of spores native to Connecticut. Through June 10. **Dario Robleto: Chrysanthemum Anthems** Solo exhibition of sculpture. Through June 10. \$7, \$4 for seniors and college students; free for members, children 18 and younger, kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and all visitors on Tuesdays. Tuesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. 258 Main St., Ridgefield. 438-4519 or www.aldrichart.org.

THE BARNUM MUSEUM Grand Adventure: A Celebration of the American Spirit in Bridgeport One-hundred-year-old museum showcases the life and times of Barnum, General Tom Thumb, Lavinia Warren and Jenny Lind; an Egyptian mummy named Pa-Ib; and a 1,000-square-foot scale model of a five-ring circus. Permanent exhibit. **P.T. Barnum: Bethel to Broadway to Bridgeport** Guides visitors through Barnum's life and career, from his hometown of Bethel, through his American Museum on Broadway and his later years living in Bridgeport. Permanent exhibit. \$5, \$4 for seniors and students, \$3 for children 4-17; free for children younger than 4 and members. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. 820 Main St.,

Bridgeport. 331-1104 or www.barnum-museum.org.

BRUCE MUSEUM Changes in Our Land Permanent display of the region's environmental and historical development. **Photography from the Bruce Museum Collection** More than 100 photographs by leading 20th-century photographers. Through May 27. **Weaving a Collection: Native American Baskets from the Bruce Museum** Explores five geographic regions of basketry: the Northeast, Great Plains, Southwest, California and Northwest. Through June 1. **Painterly Controversy** Works by William Merritt Chase and Robert Henri. Through today. **Zip, Pop and Whir: Toys of the 20th Century** Favorite toys from the 1900s. Through July 8. Paintings by more than 20 artists, including William Merritt Chase, Joseph DeCamp, Daniel Garber, Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, Theodore Robinson, John Singer Sargent, Robert Spencer, John H. Twachtman and J. Alden Weir. \$7, \$6 for seniors and children 5-12; free to children younger than 5. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. 869-0376 or www.bruce-museum.org.

THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM A science museum, featuring High-Definition movies, hands-on activities and daily planetarium shows. \$8.50; \$7 for children, seniors and students; free for children younger than 5 and members. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 4450 Park Ave., Bridgeport. 372-3521 or www.discovery-museum.org.

ELI WHITNEY MUSEUM Playing Hands Art constructed of, from or about playing cards. Through May 6. Free admission; \$7-\$10 for related projects for children. \$52. Reservations required. Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 915 Whitney Ave., Hamden. 777-1833.

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OPENINGS

ADMISSION TO EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Special Event

LOFT ARTIST ASSOCIATION Working Studios Showcase of more than 60 professional artists, live-action demonstrations, behind-the-scenes studio tours, founder meet-and-greet and Stamford's Big Read National Student Gallery Show. \$5 suggested donation. Today, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 737 Canal St., Stamford. 323-4153 or www.loftartists.com.

Openings

ART/PLACE New Movies Drawings and paintings by Sandra Meagher. Wednesday through May 27. Artist reception Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. Southport train station, New York/westbound side, 400 Center St., Southport. 255-9847.

AUDUBON CENTER Nature photography Works by members of the Photography Club of Lower Fairfield County. Tuesday through June 30. Opening reception May 6, 3-5 p.m. Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 613 Riversville Road at John Street, Greenwich. 869-5272, 863-3358, www.greenwich.audubon.org or www.pclfc.com.

CLAY ART CENTER Low Fireworks Works by Liz Biddle, Kelli

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