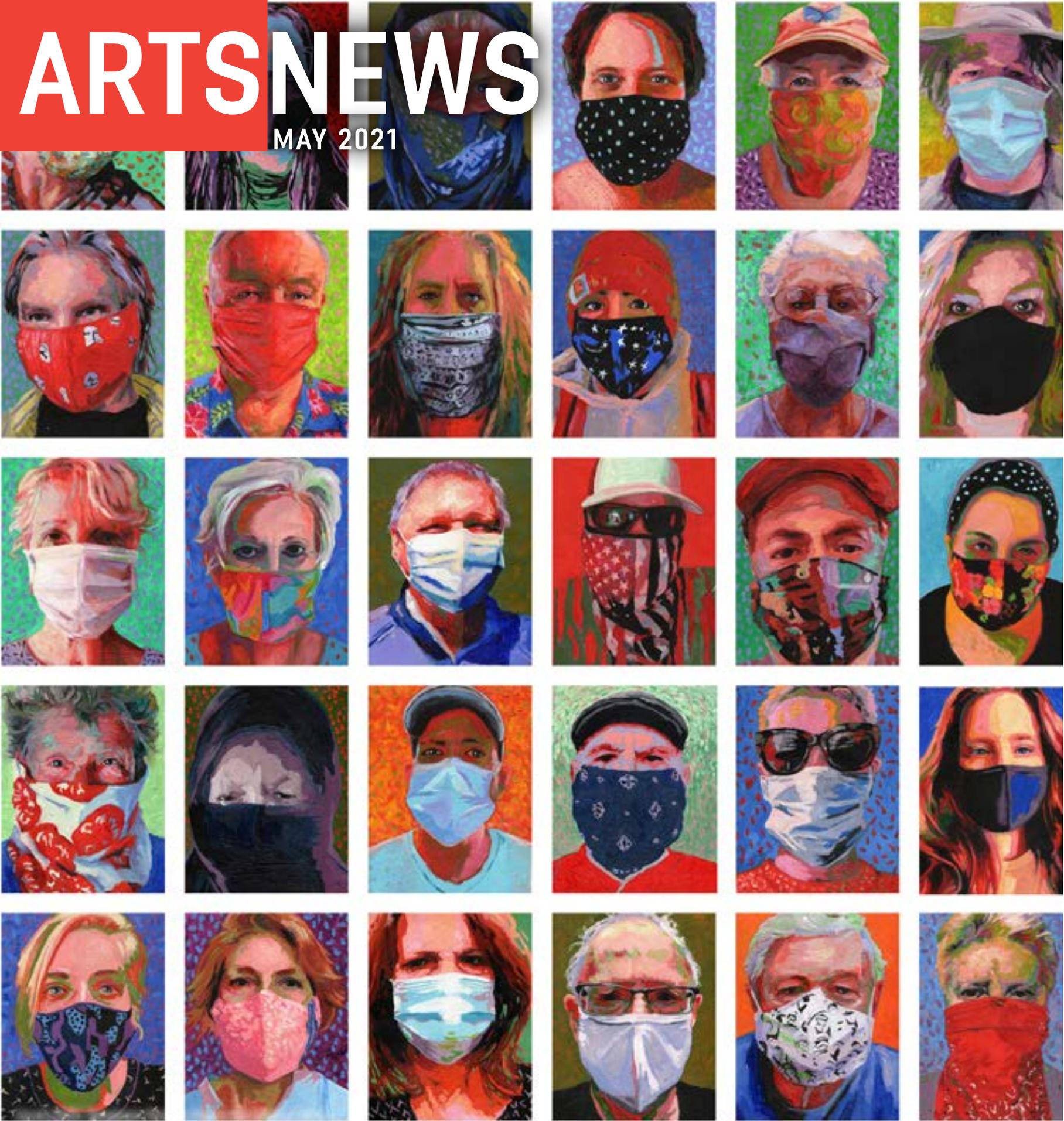


ARTSNEWS

MAY 2021



Portrait of a Pandemic

Covid 2020: Pandemic Portrait Project by Eleanor Miller, on view in ArtsWestchester's "Together apART: Creating During COVID" exhibition from May 7-August 1

A PUBLICATION OF ARTSWESTCHESTER SPONSORED BY:



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Westchester gov.com **From the County Executive**

Dear Readers,
Thank you for taking some time to read this May edition of *ArtsNews*. Springtime is finally upon us, and there is no better way for us to enjoy the warmer weather than by taking advantage of the wonderful arts opportunities from arts groups throughout the County. Our friends at

ArtsWestchester, and the arts community as a whole, have continued to grow and change with these uncertain times, allowing us the chance to explore the arts from the comfort of our own homes. Just last month, many of our entertainment venues were able to reopen their doors for the first time since the pandemic. Please enjoy any of the programs offered by arts groups throughout the County that are highlighted in this issue, including:

- an upcoming craft fair that supports local artists (see page A16)
- the winner of Pelham Art Center’s annual Rutsch Award (see page A18)
- the reopening of our local movie theaters (see page A20)

Spring represents new beginnings, progress and the start of something new, and we all long for the days when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. There are so many wonderful programs to discover in person and online right here in our own County, and I encourage all of you to explore the beauty of the arts. Thank you.

Sincerely,
George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

.....

The work of ArtsWestchester is made possible with support from Westchester County Government.

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County Executive

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ARTSW

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ArtsNews (artsw.org), your guide to arts and culture in Westchester County, NY, is published by **ARTSWESTCHESTER**, a private, not-for-profit organization established in 1965. The largest of its kind in New York State, it serves more than 150 cultural organizations, numerous school districts, hundreds of artists, and audiences numbering more than one million. The goal of ArtsWestchester is to ensure the availability, accessibility, and diversity of the arts in Westchester.



FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,
ArtsWestchester CEO



(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

The Creative Industry

There seems to be a new way of thinking that is surfacing in the arts community. It may be something that's been evolving quietly over time and just now bubbling up to the surface.

Here's what seems to be emerging. As we try to **Restart the Arts**, we confront anew that arts and cul-ture are more complicated as an industry than traditionally thought of. Over time, we have viewed this industry principally through the not-for-profit lens – museums and theaters, which make the arts affordable, accessible and available. They also create jobs both inside and outside of the community. With general operating support waning, many are casting about, looking for a new way of thinking about arts and culture – as “The Creative Industry.”

That may be a legitimate umbrella, considering that the

according to a study by Americans for the Arts. These three sectors are reliant on one another and have more in common than their differences. The thing that they have most in common is that they all create jobs for people who spend money, buy goods and pay taxes. That seems to be the lens by which The Creative Industry can find support for salaries, utilities and rent, those items we call by the now-obsolete term “general operating.” While it may not be our preferred way of asking for support, for this lofty sort of work we do, it does seem to have its merits.

We owe thanks to leaders like Senator Chuck Schumer for the **Shuttered Venue Program**, which makes no distinction between theaters that are not-for-profits or commercial. They are all

“With general operating support waning, many are casting about, looking for a new way of thinking about arts and culture – as ‘The Creative Industry.’”

sector embraces the growing number of individuals who self-identify as artists. They are painters and sculptors, dancers and actors, writers and photographers, screenwriters and directors, animators and editors, and the list goes on to include many in the technology fields. These change-makers and innovators are the heart and soul of arts and culture as we know it and though they may be self-employed or, due to COVID unemployed, their work is critical to The Creative Industry.

Then, there is the for-profit commercial wing of the industry that turns ideas into money. That's the magic of Hollywood, Broadway and HBO. Those are the folks that spin the dreams of fame and fortune. Here's where the job growth goes off the charts.

Together, these three elements are an ecological mashup described by some as The Creative Industry. And these workers account for nearly five percent of Westchester's workforce,

theaters, which have fixed seating and need to socially distance patrons by not filling every seat in the house. What was needed for the economy was simply, as we say in the theater, to “put the butts back in seats.”

Of course, we can quibble about the rules because we know that all theaters do not have fixed seating, and some adapt the seating to fit what's on stage, or prefer an informal arrangement of seating. It won't help those smaller venues, but for now, we won't quibble since the program will do a lot to re-vive theater-going or, as some call it, “normalization.”

And one more thing: we need to thank all of our legislators for the Paycheck Protection Program for which not-for-profits were equally eligible. It single-handedly saved many an arts and culture venue, or as we now call them—Creative Industries.



Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at: thisandthatbyjl.com

feature

Portrait of a **Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on people across the world. In an attempt to process their experiences, emotions and their “new normal,” many citizens throughout Westchester County turned to artistic activities – painting, writing, composing, sewing, sculpting and more. ArtsWestchester’s new exhibition, [Together apART: Creating During COVID](#), uses a hyperlocal lens to look at how Westchester individuals have expressed themselves through the arts during the pandemic. From May 7-August 1, the exhibition will present a snapshot of this moment in time, as communicated through the works of more than 220 artists and community members.

During the pandemic, people were isolated in their homes, which became the place they live, play *and* work. They took to the great outdoors as respite, newly appreciating the world around them. They reflected on their lives which, in many cases, had drastically changed. During this time, societal issues boiled, requiring and acknowledging attention; masks became a fashion statement; and an illustration of a spiky red “virus” became a symbol of struggle. All of these experiences and emotions are captured in creative works on display in ArtsWestchester’s White Plains gallery as well as its parallel virtual exhibition.

Gina Randazzo and Eleanor Miller both tasked themselves with creating portraits of people wearing masks; Randazzo with

photography and Miller with painting. Each seemed to have the desire to capture a new reality in which people have become accustomed to new norms. Thereby, a community of faces become a symbol of the pandemic.

Bob Clyatt, on the other hand, interpreted his own emotional state through a series of sculptures, about one per month, summarizing his feelings through a range of complex expressions. Clyatt explains: “While [the sculptures] were roughly based on my actual face, as I was unable to work with a regular subject or model during 2020, they are better understood as a receptacle for emotions spun into clay.”

This type of reflection was common as people dealt with the monotony of their new lives. Monica Carrier says her works were “a way to cope with Zoom meeting after Zoom meeting.” Dallas Agnew, like many, took to the outdoors, setting her photography lens on a flying bee: “That little bee didn’t know it, but he really made my day.”

People were forced out of their comfort zones and were required to adapt to the circumstances around them. Photographer Todd Shapera, who often shoots special events, saw the shift first hand: “Gone were all the trappings once considered *de rigueur* for these celebrations... [In one case,] a July 4 weekend wedding in the Finger Lakes morphed into a White Plains backyard ceremony with ten family members and a picnic lunch.”

Shapera noted: “With all of the logistical changes, most striking

BOB CLYATT

*Five Self-Portraits:
Covid Series
Sculpture*



DONNA CHAMBERS

No Justice, No Peace!

Quilting

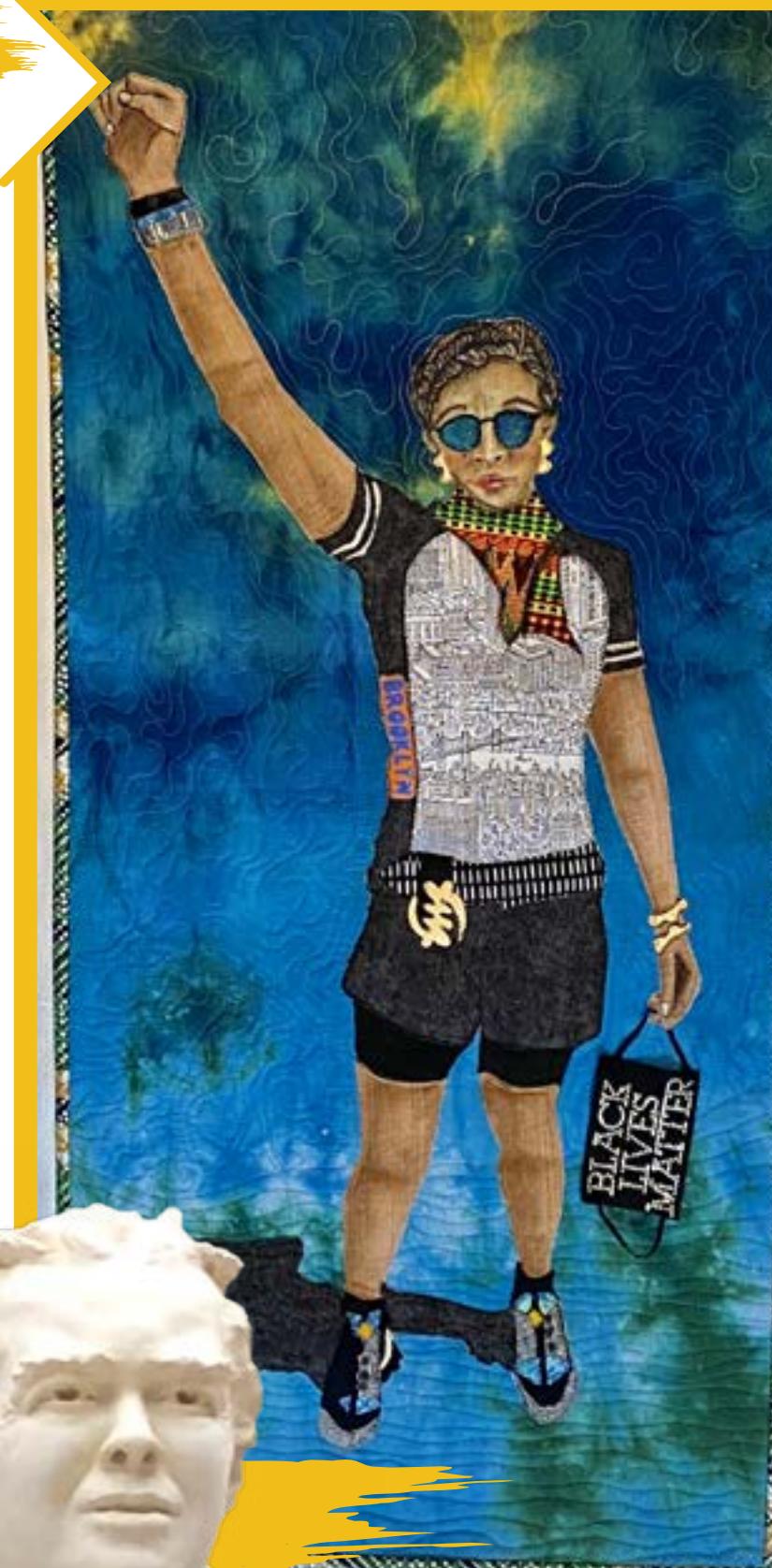
was observing couples as they adapted emotionally. Rather than reluctant acceptance, they seemed to value the unanticipated, lovely experience..." He captured these moments in a series of photographs.

For some, change was not cast upon them, but was required by them. Fueled by the outrage surrounding the death of George Floyd, bustling cities that had gone silent during the initial COVID outbreak suddenly erupted with protests, handmade signs and calls for change. Artist Donna Chambers was inspired by her daughter Cori's participation in a Black Lives Matter protest. The resulting 17"x40" raw edge applique quilt of Cori is made of an assortment of cotton and metallic fabrics, accented with hand painting.

In the end, even where there was adversity, there was also a coming together around the common goal of a return to normalcy. People inspired their neighbors, rooted for each other and lifted one another up.

White Plains Hospital received hundreds of creative and inspiring messages from the community via the hashtag #WPHCommunityLove. The messages, viewable in [Together apART's virtual exhibition](#), line the halls of the hospital and inspire staff and patients alike.

According to painter Meera Agarwal, her "Ripple" series was "inspired by the ripple effect of goodness we experienced in our communities, even as the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed and crippled us."



Together apART: Creating During COVID



SCOTT SEABOLDT

CovidStar

Mixed Media Collage

This two-sided image came from the amalgamation of many discarded works on paper... [It is] influenced by both the electron microscope image of the COVID virus itself and of the Seven Pointed Stars by Hilma af Klint, an artist whose show at the Guggenheim was the last significant exhibition seen prior to quarantine."





LISA LEE FREEMAN

GDP: Uncharted
Painting

“The focus of my art practice is what I call 'interpretive charting,' in which I chart data that cannot be tracked in the traditional sense... I appropriate the language of charts in abstract imagery to investigate the challenge of navigating chaos, uncertainty and the unknown... In 'GDP: Uncharted,' I explore pandemic-triggered economic breakdown and the resulting unprecedented chaos that has enveloped our country.”

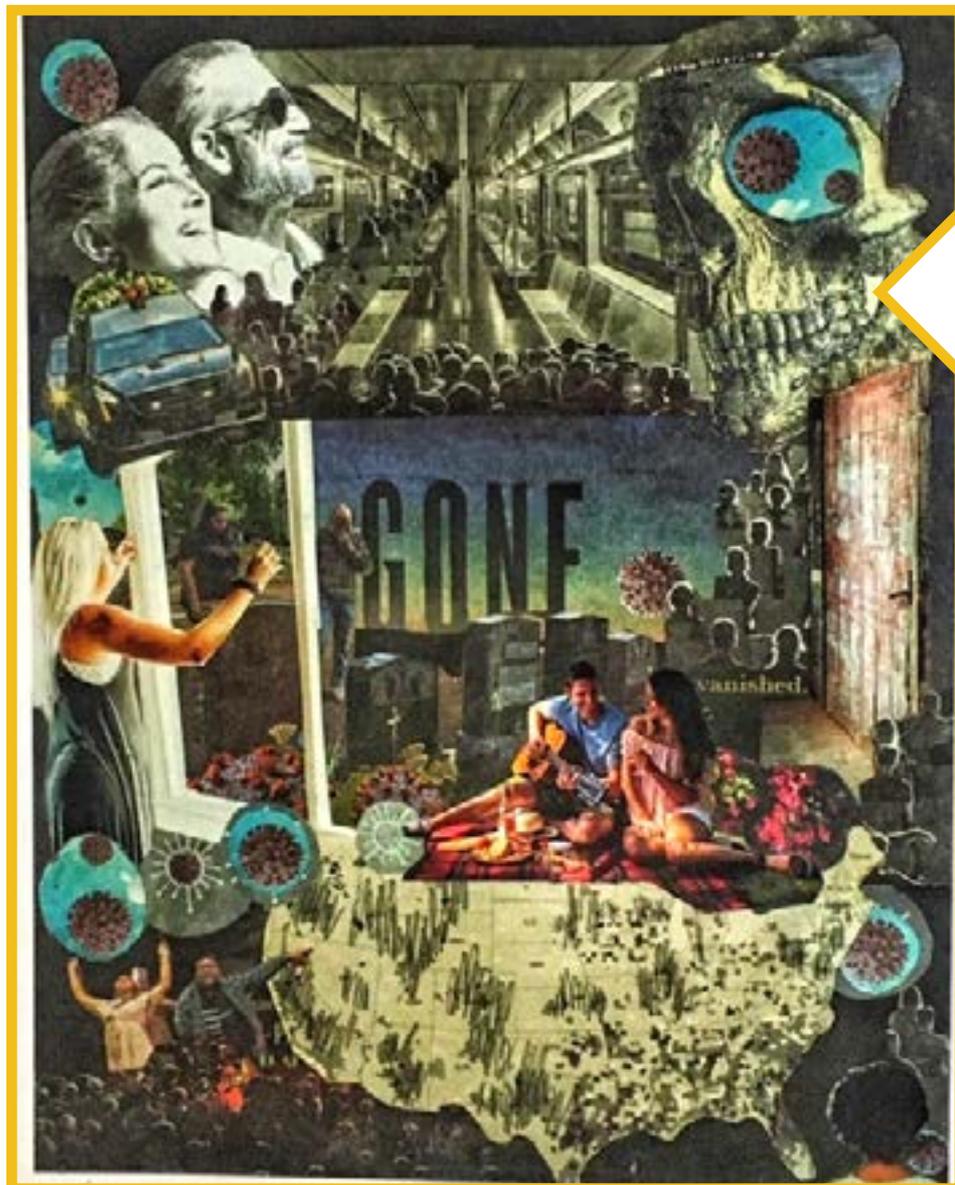
JULIA WHITNEY BARNES

Nocturnal Nature (Botanical/Floor/Goldenrod)
Botanical Collage

“I approach each growing thing with equal importance... I create unique blue and white cyanotype prints onto sheets of cotton paper and then I paint in countless layers of watercolor, gouache and ink... These works will always symbolize resilience to me... the process speaks to a kind of gutting and reconstituting... But the final thing isn't the object... just a record of my will to bring it back.”



Together apART: Creating During COVID



KARIN MEYERS

GONE

Mixed Media Collage

“Being essentially cloistered at home, I found myself constantly bombarded by images related to the COVID pandemic. The images reminded me of all we had lost, all that was gone from our lives. And so I began collecting images that resonated with my emotional state.”

SALLY FRANKLIN

Stay Awhile

Painting

“I began feeling some anxiety [from being] holed up inside, unable to see family and friends. As a way of coping with these feelings, I turned to visualization meditation, a technique used to reduce stress...I remembered visiting a place in Kennebunkport, Maine one summer. It was serene, calm and peaceful there... The process of painting [it] was therapeutic for me as I revisited that ‘happy place.’”



MINDY KOMBERT

No Waste

Fabric Collage

I was not only spending my days making [masks] but finding them everywhere, [as they littered] the paths of daily walks and created a growing environmental health hazard. I began documenting the scattered PPE ... The rationing of toilet paper and other household items made me reexamine the waste my household was producing.... I began upcycling household trash and weaving consumer waste into environmentally conscious textiles."



Together apART: Creating During COVID



LYNDA SHENKMAN

Empty Oculus

Photography



The emotional power of the world's most important city made empty and lifeless by such an abstract, non-human force perhaps shows us the edge of what we as a species are capable of comprehending. To know, in present day, that we have stepped back from that abyss should give us hope."

ANDREW COURTNEY

Rally For Black Lives Lost

Photography



The viral global pandemic collided with the renewed pandemic of systemic racism in our communities... Participating in the Black Lives Matter rallies in our region, and sharing my images from these community expressions, lifts me from the other pandemic. These demonstrations of passionate community voices are the practice our democracy needs. For me, it's the same personal lift out of isolation."



DEBORAH SADLER

Bookshop

Paper Collage

“I relish creating three dimensional figures from this fundamentally flat medium... I derive great joy in finding moments of whimsy and absurdity. Paper sculpture has seen me through the stresses of ‘lockdown life’... My work came to reflect areas of normal life, but in whimsical settings wherein anthropomorphized characters comfortably reside.”



All artist quotes in this section are excerpts from submitted Artist Statements, which are available in ArtsWestchester's gallery as well as in its online exhibition.

spotlight

Thank You to Our State Lawmakers for Securing **\$1 Million** For Our Restart the Arts Grants Program

Read more about the Restart the Arts program.

"The pandemic has put Westchester arts on life support. We need to pump State money into Westchester arts so they continue to inspire and drive the economy of our community."

– Assemblymember Thomas J. Abinanti



"I strongly support ArtsWestchester's 'Restart the Arts' initiative. Investments in the arts have an enormous economic multiplying effect, creating jobs and lifting communities."

– Senator Peter Harckham

"Arts organizations that this initiative funds benefit our communities in two ways: they lift us in good and bad times, and at the same time they have a significant economic benefit by creating jobs."

– Assemblymember Nader J. Sayegh





"The Westchester arts community has been hit especially hard by social distancing and lockdown measures that were needed to keep us safe. That is why I, along with my Senate colleagues, fought hard for \$1 million for ArtsWestchester to ensure that our local arts community will emerge from this pandemic with the resources needed to come back stronger than ever. I hope to join you all safely in a theatre or gallery soon."

– Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

"I am delighted that, together with my colleagues in the Westchester delegation, we were able to secure for ArtsWestchester a separate \$1 million line item in the 2021-22 NYS budget. The appropriation is highly merited. ArtsWestchester, the leading arts council in the state, is not only keeping the arts alive in Westchester, but is now poised to bring them back stronger than ever. The arts are critical to the lifeblood of Westchester, providing thousands of jobs and, perhaps most importantly, richness to the wonderful tapestry of life."

– Assemblymember Chris Burdick



"Art shapes our everyday lives, even beyond the creation of aesthetic beauty. It's an outlet for our ideas and imagination. Now more than ever, we need to foster the innovation and creative thinking that comes from art."

– Assemblymember Amy Paulin

"I am so pleased that we were able to provide significant funding for ArtsWestchester's 'Restart The Arts' program. This investment will allow our artists to return to their work, and audiences to once again experience the joy and beauty of live performances and programming."

– Senator Shelley Mayer



"The arts are critically important to the cultural and economic health of New York. In Rockland & Westchester, the arts are central to our identity as thriving, vibrant communities. I was proud to fight for, and win, funding for the 'Restart the Arts' initiative in the budget this year. We must get artists and performers back to work and revitalize theaters, museums and galleries. Restarting the arts is how we restart New York!"

– Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick

news briefs



MARSHA ON THE MOVE Monthly Web Feature

When Business Council of Westchester President Marsha Gordon, is not advocating for businesses in the County, she can be found at the cinema or theater. Read Marsha's reviews on ArtsWestchester's "As a Matter of Art" blog: artsw.org/artsblog.

Sound of Metal (Amazon Prime)

Having been exposed, just a bit, to the beautiful and unique culture of the deaf community, this film shed great light on the great joy and kinship shared by so many. The main character, acted masterfully by Riz Ahmed, loses his hearing due to the heavy metal music he played for years. We experience the horror with him, as well as the anger, frustration and loss. We see his willingness to do all that he can to regain his hearing, even though it means losing so much more ... and then we experience his acceptance. The strength of this film is that the viewer experiences this all, on a guttural level, and that final acceptance, felt by all of us, comes as a beautiful surprise. Wonderful acting also by Paul Raci, who fosters this community of deaf people who live life to the maximum.



Sound of Metal press photo (Landmark Media/Alamy)

ArtsWestchester Announces New Board Member, Barry Shenkman



ArtsWestchester has announced that Barry A. Shenkman joined its Board of Directors earlier this year to serve a three-year term. As President and Treasurer of the Jacob Burns Foundation, Inc., Shenkman has supported many non-profits in the Tri-State and Westchester area, including ArtsWestchester. He takes an active interest in giving back, often supporting organizations by serving on their boards. This includes Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Jacob Burns Film Center and George Washington University Law School.

In addition to a degree in Business Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Shenkman's business focus is tempered by his love for the arts, whether visual, performing or film. Through the years, he has also created a body of work of mostly abstract landscapes that he has proudly exhibited in several local venues. Shenkman is a long-time resident of Westchester, where he lives with his family.

In Memoriam: Karen Johnson

New Rochelle resident Karen Johnson, a teacher at Albert Leonard Middle School (ALMS) for 22 years, passed away recently. Nearly fifteen years ago, a group of young students asked Johnson to resurrect the school's step team that had been initiated in the 1990s. Being the youngest daughter of Anne C. Scott, director of the New Rochelle School of the Performing Arts, Johnson gladly accepted the challenge. She proceeded to grow the team from an after school club (ALMS Sugarbabies) to a nationally ranked competitive team. The name of the team evolved to ALMS P.R.I.D.E. – an acronym that stands for "Purpose, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, Excellence" – a system of values that she expected every member of the team to carry with them in every aspect of their lives. Johnson, nicknamed "Mama Johnson" by her students, devoted her free time to the team, joining them at competitions, step-camp trips and even college visits, as she aimed to expose her students to the goal of attending and graduating college.



feature

Craft is King

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

Last year, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, an accomplished ceramics artist of 25 years, was readying to participate in her first craft show. Then, as the story goes, the world was put on pause. The COVID-19 virus resulted in shelter-in-place orders, shuttered venues and canceled events, including craft shows. Mickelson, and the hundreds of artists who were set to display their works, lost the much relied-upon revenue that these shows have the potential to provide. So she decided to do something about it.

She and co-organizers Alexandra FitzGerald and Loren Maron got to work contacting artist friends, and the Ossining trio put together the first [Westchester Craft Crawl](#), which took place last October. The grassroots effort hatched a plan that allowed the community a safe and socially distanced way to take in some culture while supporting its local artists: multiple artists at each of a handful of locations spread were across several towns.

“The public was eager to interact with makers and shop [for] handmade items.” In fact, the event was so successful, says Mickelson, that two repeat events have been planned – one this month, and another in October.

The upcoming Westchester Craft Crawl has safely expanded to include more than two-dozen additional artists. “Everyone who participated last year had such a good result that they are all participating again for the spring event. We also had several new artists inquire about being hosts and guest artists.”

On May 15-16, the works of 56 professional craft artists – working in clay, wood, fiber, metal, glass, jewelry and mixed media – will be on display at 10 [“tour stops”](#) across Tarrytown, Ossining, Croton, Cortlandt Manor and Peekskill. There is even a [Google Map](#) that outlines the locations.

Mickelson says that the event will follow CDC protocols at each of those locations: “Our system of having a greeter at the front of each tour stop kept crowds in check [last year]. We

administered hand sanitizer, ensured masks were in place and took information for contact tracing.”

So why ten stops instead of one? “Multiple locations allow us to really spread the artists out and create a socially distanced outdoor event. People can start at any stop they like, and this way they are avoiding big crowds in one location.”

Mickelson compares the tour to a scavenger hunt, explaining that there is no right or wrong; no rules on where to begin. Wherever an attendee decides to go first, they will receive a “passport.” This card will get stamped at each subsequent location. With six or more stamps, the attendee will be eligible to win prizes donated by



Ceramic cups and mugs by Don Reynolds

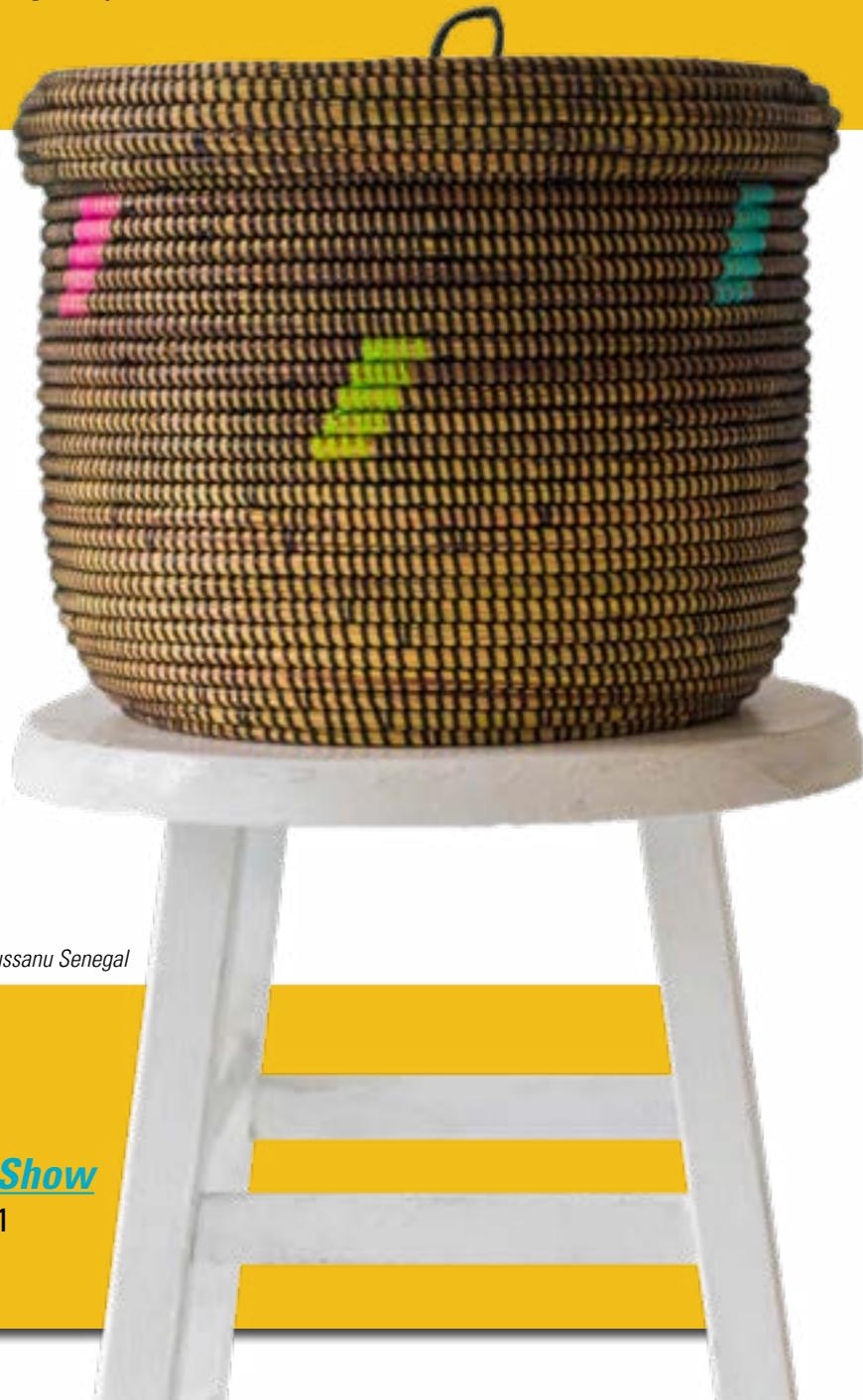
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Potted succulent arrangement by Vintage & Vine

“This is an artist-organized event in support of artists, so full proceeds go to the artists. The internet is great, but it can only do so much. Nothing beats that face-to-face interaction, even when masked!”

– Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Westchester Craft Crawl Founder



Handwoven basket by Tackussanu Senegal

participating artists and tour sponsors.

“In several cases, attendees even get to see where the host artist lives and works. There is something special about that.” Speaking of the artists... Mickelson stresses: “This is an artist-organized event in support of artists, so full proceeds go to the artists. The internet is great, but it can only do so much. Nothing beats that face-to-face interaction, even when masked!”

Coming Craft Shows in Westchester

Crafts at Lyndhurst

August 14-15, 2021
September 17-19, 2021

Westchester Craft Crawl

May 15-16, 2021
October 2-3, 2021

Armonk Outdoor Art Show

September 25-26, 2021

feature



Matthew Cole in his studio (photo courtesy of Pelham Art Center)

FROM THE TOP FLOOR OF A SHUTTERED MUSEUM

by Michelle Falkenstein

This April, artist Matthew Cole won the [11th Biennial Alexander Rutsch Award for Painting](#) from Pelham Art Center (PAC), chosen from among 730 submissions. It was solid recognition for 33-year-old Cole, but one year ago his situation was a bit shakier.

On the last day of February 2020, Cole flew from New York to Tucson, Arizona, where he was to be Artist-in-Residence at the Museum of Contemporary Art. But on arrival, the museum staff told him they had canceled the program due to COVID-19.

Cole, who had subleased his New York apartment, was unsure of where to go. The museum was understanding and gave him a month to make alternate plans.

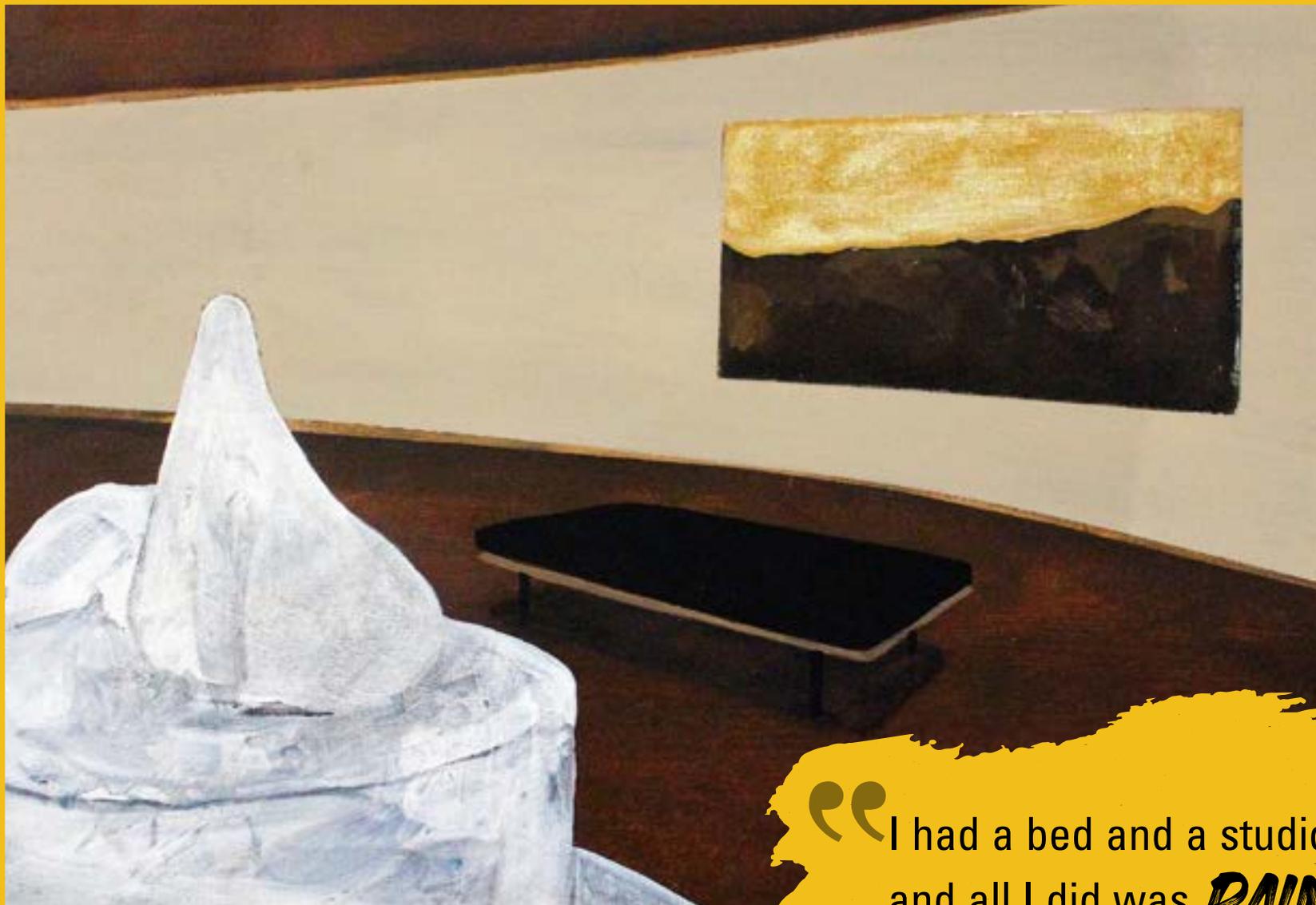
But when the pandemic went from bad to worse, Cole stayed, living on the top floor of the shuttered museum until he could find other accommodations. "I had a bed and a studio, and all I did was paint," he says. "It turned out to be the best thing."

Three of the paintings in his Rutsch Award application—*Quarantine*, *Arizona Stargazer* and *Chinatown*—were painted in Tucson.

Cole's prize includes a show at PAC (May 15-June 26) and \$7,500. For this award cycle, in recognition of a tough year, the top prize was increased from \$5,000 and, for the first time, the other seven finalists also received monetary prizes.

The Rutsch Award was established by the family, friends and supporters of Alexander Rutsch, an Austrian artist who spent his final years in Pelham. Alexi Rutsch-Brock, the oldest of Alexander's three daughters and a member of the selection committee, says she loved Cole's use of color. "The work is really stunning in person," she says. "It comes across as very poetic."

The people and objects in Cole's pictures are often incomplete. People lack faces or limbs and flowers float above their stems. Cole



Arizona Stargazer by
Matthew Cole

“I had a bed and a studio,
and all I did was **PAIN**T.
It turned out to be the
best thing.”

explains that he’s trying to capture the fragmented nature of memory itself. “A painting should only be finished up to a certain point, so the viewer has room and space to finish it in their minds,” he says.

Cole creates great depth and space in his paintings. When the PAC team visited his studio to prepare for his exhibition, Cole says they were surprised to see how small some of the work actually is.

Cole, who grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey, says he doesn’t fit the cliché of the artist who started drawing as soon as he could hold a crayon. “I wasn’t taken to a museum as a child,” he says. “I didn’t get serious about art until college.”

As a teen, Cole harbored dreams of playing professional basketball, and several of his paintings feature basketball courts. One depicts glowing white lines on a black surface, while another features a wide plane of green that is broken by the shadows of nearby trees.

Cole attended Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University, where the program was highly focused on conceptual work like video and performance. “I came out [of the program] more confused than when I went in,” he says.

After graduation, Cole apprenticed with Vebjørn Sand, a Norwegian painter based in Tribeca. Cole says the seven years he spent with Sand allowed him to get back to basics. “It was maybe a more fruitful experience than school, more in line with my approach as an artist,” he says.

Currently, Cole lives in Queens and has a studio in Red Hook, Brooklyn. He planned to split his time this year between New York and Paris, where his partner lives, but COVID-19 intervened.

He recently completed his first mural for a new Rockefeller building on East 29th Street in Manhattan. “It’s four times larger than the largest piece I ever worked on,” he says. “It was just me on a scissor lift.” His career appears to be on the rise as well.

spotlight

TIME TO TAKE IN A MOVIE

by Rocio De La Roca

After a year since the COVID-19 pandemic shut them down, movies are coming back to Westchester as local film theaters reopen and announce their opening dates this May.

[*The Picture House Regional Film Center*](#) (TPH) in Pelham is one of these local theater venues that has reopened at 25% capacity, with a maximum of 50 people in its Main Hall and six people in its screening room, per New York State guidelines. TPH, which celebrates its centennial this year, began hosting in-person screenings in addition to the virtual screenings and education programs already in place.

“For one-hundred years, The Picture House has been a place where people collectively enjoy the magic of the movies,” says Amy Cole, Founder and President of AOK Communications, speaking on behalf of TPH. “As we reopen, we are taking every safety precaution and measure seriously.”

To ensure the safety of audiences and staff, TPH has established cleaning protocols, such as disinfecting theater seats between each screening and sanitizing bathrooms and concession surfaces.

This May, TPH will celebrate [*Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month*](#) with online film study classes that explore Asian American films. Upcoming programs at TPH will also include week-long in-person summer camps for aspiring young filmmakers this August. During this camp program, TPH’s teaching artists will help students to hone their storytelling skills and practice the art and science of filmmaking.

The curtain rises at [*Jacob Burns Film Center*](#) (JBFC) with limited capacity in-person screenings this May*. For its opening week, JBFC will screen the Academy Award-winning film *Nomadland*, as well as *Limbo*, *The Human Voice* and more. On May 7, the Center will also show the documentary film *The Truffle Hunters* and acclaimed drama *Minari*, also an awards contender. Only three ground floor theaters at JBFC will be open, with two show-times per day, per theater in addition to its [*other safety measures*](#).

Margo Amgott, Interim Executive Director at JBFC, says the Center and staff are thrilled to be reopening. Amgott states that the required closure has been difficult not only for the theater-going public, but for the whole town of Pleasantville. She explains, “We are a bit of an economic engine for the town, and we love shining a light on that corner of Pleasantville that boosts business for local restaurants,



bookstores and so on.”

Films will also be coming to the big screen at [*Bedford Playhouse*](#) (BP) on May 28, the Friday before Memorial Day. BP announced that the theater will be reopening at 33% capacity and will be following federal, state and local safety guidance, as well as those set by the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO). The Playhouse will instill health and safety measures, including a mandatory face covering policy, social distancing, capacity limits and increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support our community has shown over the last very difficult year and we look forward to welcoming guests back home to the Playhouse,” said Michael Hoagland, Executive Director at BP.

He adds: “The Playhouse will continue to follow the recommendations and guidelines of health experts. With these strict measures in place, we are confident that [visiting] the Playhouse will be a safe and enjoyable movie-going experience for everyone.”

In addition, [*The Playhouse Café*](#) will remain open for indoor and outdoor dining on weekends, and will host tastings each month. BP is developing a lineup of movie-themed special events in the Café as well.

*[UPDATE] Due to a staff member testing positive for COVID-19, Jacob Burns Film Center has made the decision to postpone its originally planned reopening. It will now reopen on May 12. This affects the events listed above. Please visit [*JBFC's website*](#) for updated info.

The Dancing Caravan

by Mary Alice Franklin

During the reign of King Louis XIV, a time in which France's population was decimated by the plague, the King turned to the arts for relief. At that time, what is known to be the first dance troupe was formed – established by an actor, a dancer and a composer. According to Carole Alexis, Director and Choreographer at [Ballet des Amériques](#) (BDA), the troupe performed for the King regularly, but also performed on stages for all the public to witness.

It is with the same heart that Alexis chose to revisit this concept of the traveling dance theater – and the modern-day Dancing Caravan was conceived. Though the idea was imagined prior to the COVID-19

not give up, and not accept that arts disappear in moments of crisis.”

This spring, the Caravan continues to appear in Westchester and beyond. On May 23, BDA will present two performances in front of the Wainwright House in Rye. On June 19, the “Caravan” takes to Gantry Park in Long Island City. Alexis says that they anticipate more summer and fall performances to become solidified.

The program for these performances is chosen carefully: “We select pieces that are ideal and appealing in outdoor settings...[we wouldn't] present full-length ballets or dances that require elaborate stage settings...but rather, we take into account, for example,



pandemic, it was finally visualized, and took on its most meaningful relevance, last summer during the circumstances of the virus's outbreak.

The company sought to bring dance to outdoor venues during a time when people were unable to attend theaters, concerts and performances. To do this, BDA offers the full shebang – a portable sprung dance floor, changing room tents, sound system and lights.

“The idea is to have the equipment and general wherewithal, as well as a suitable repertoire, to bring dance performances to places where one would not expect to find them,” says Alexis.

In other words, BDA brings the art to the people.

In a recent interview with the Consulate General of France in New York, Alexis stated that during the pandemic, and the social issues that arose during it, she wanted “to move on, to create art, to

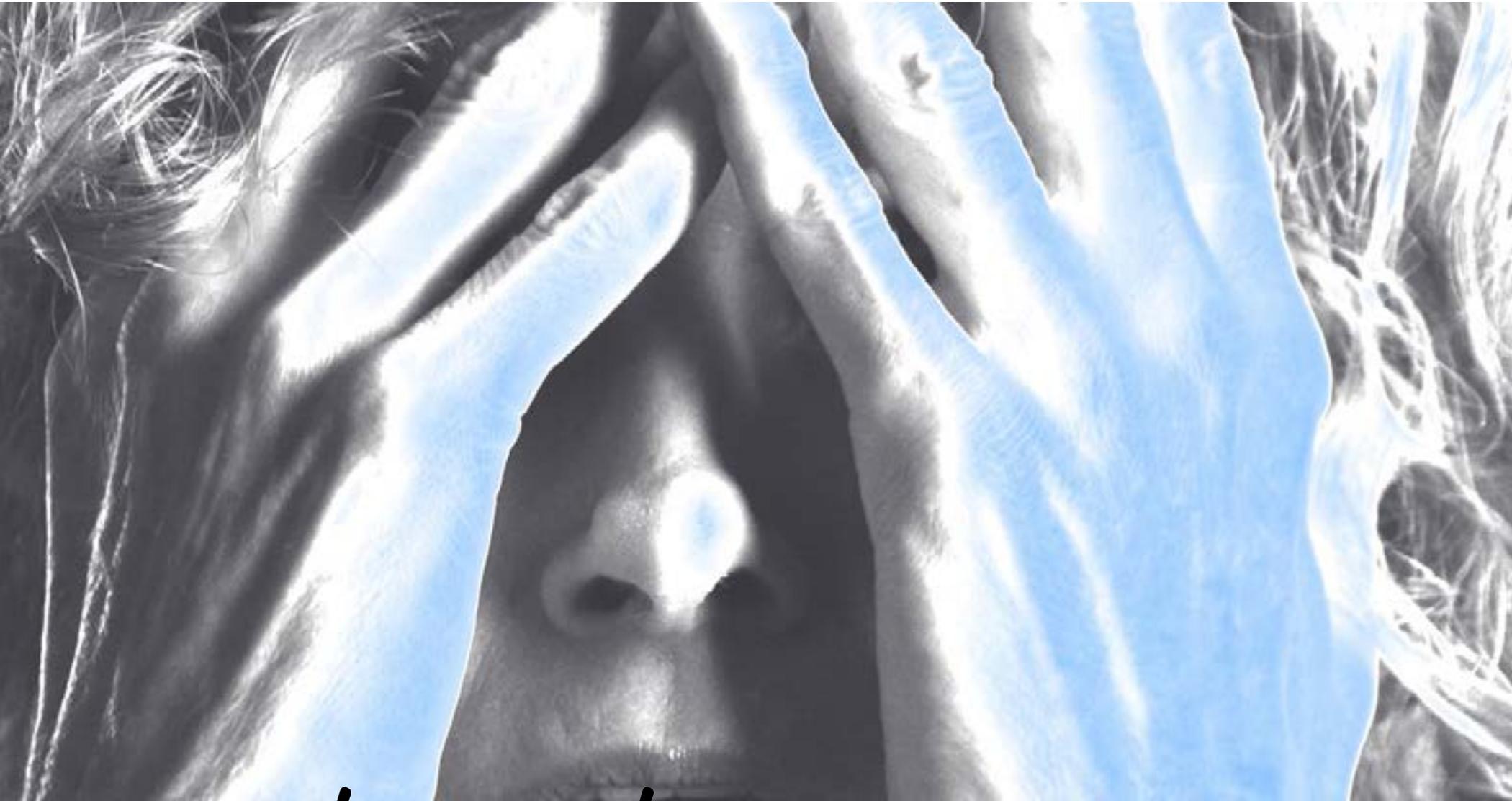
the fact that daylight may prevent elaborate lighting designs.”

The two-act program, to be performed by at least six dancers, begins with *Peter and the Wolf*, a 38-minute ballet suitable for young audiences and families, with the music of Sergei Prokofiev. It was originally choreographed, and later adapted for the Caravan, by Alexis. The second act is an *entrée de ballet*, that is, pieces that are no longer than five to ten minutes. The selections draw from Caribbean, Celtic and French cultures, among others.

The Dancing Caravan creates a direct connection between the people and the arts. Says Alexis: “It is effective in that it brings dance theater to the people in places where they already are, and thus is effective in growing audiences for dance.”

Photo: A Dancing Caravan performance at Wainwright House in 2020. This year's performances will not take place under a canopy, but rather under the open sky. (Photo courtesy of Ballet des Amériques)

spotlight



Imprint of Light

Video still from Imprint of Light (photo courtesy of RiverArts)

What does one do when they cannot present dance live on stage? In the case of choreographer/dancer Maxine Sherman and composer/videographer Steven Brent, they create a new way of seeing movement that cannot be accomplished in person. When the two met at a RiverArts event several years ago, they decided to collaborate on a project together. Now the organization that brought them together will present their new work, [Imprint of Light](#), a virtual amalgamation of dance, music and video.

For three years, the duo “slowly chipped away” at the project, according to Sherman. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and RiverArts asked Sherman, who is the artistic director and curator of dance for the organization, to create a dance program, she knew it was time for this project to shine. She says: “I knew this would be a perfect way to unite three art forms – visual, movement, and sound – in one online presentation.”

Maxine Sherman is a former principal dancer with the Alvin

Ailey American Dance Theater and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Steven Brent works in a variety of media including sound and music, video and interactive 3D experiences. The resulting seventeen-minute production is a representation of the imagination.

As Brent describes: “The piece itself is a type of meditation or trance, using the idea of the five elements (Air, Water, Fire, Earth and Spirit) as expressed in the human act of creating art.”

The video layers imagery to create a new experience for its viewer. Brent says that “the difference between reality and imagination is a trick of perspective.” To create [Imprint of Light](#), Sherman moved in front of a green screen and Brent manipulated the footage and added a sound score.

RiverArts will present the video on May 8 with a live screening on Zoom, followed by a live Q&A with Sherman and Brent. The program, including the Q&A, will be available to view for the two weeks following the broadcast, from 5/10-23.

JUNETEENTH PREVIEW

Juneteenth commemorates the declaration that all Black people in Galveston, Texas were “free.” This announcement, made on June 19, 1865, came more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and is considered by Black people in the United States as “Emancipation Day.” The date is celebrated annually to commemorate the end of slavery in the country; however, last year, the State of New York State announced that this date would become an official state holiday beginning in 2021. The welcome announcement has prompted additional celebrations and events throughout Westchester County.

Below is a line-up of [upcoming Juneteenth programs](#). Additional details for these events will be reported in the June issue of *ArtsNews*.

JUNE 1

- Virtual Countywide Juneteenth Kickoff Program (via Facebook and Zoom at 7pm)
Presented by ArtsWestchester, the Westchester African American Advisory Board, White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Inc. and the Juneteenth Committees of Mt. Vernon, Peekskill, Yonkers, Irvington and Haverstraw. This virtual program, featuring lectures, music and dance, will mark the beginning of a month-long celebration of Juneteenth activities throughout the County.

JUNE 12

- City of White Plains Virtual Juneteenth Celebration
(Telecast on Fios channel 47, Optimum channel 75 and [streamed online](#), 11am)
Presented by White Plains Juneteenth Heritage, Inc.

JUNE 18-20

- City of Yonkers: Citywide Juneteenth African Heritage Festival Weekend 2021

JUNE 18-19

- Town of Haverstraw
Presented by Haverstraw African American Connection

JUNE 19

- City of Peekskill: Juneteenth Celebration (12pm)
- City of Irvington (Main Street School, 1-3pm)
- City of Mount Vernon (TBD)



spotlight



Young Adult Leadership Council Liaison Alyssa Monte (left) with four of the Council's youth participants at a Leadership Council field trip to the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (photo by ArtsWestchester)

Young Adult Leadership Council: A Window into the Art World

by Joshua Schreier

When ArtsWestchester's Arts Education staff saw that some of the frequent participants of its Teen Tuesdays and Thursdays program were outgrowing the program's target age range, they wanted to find a way to keep participants engaged.

According to Jessica Cioffoletti, Director of Arts Education at ArtsWestchester: "We are dedicated to using the arts to help youth gain confidence, find their voices and prepare them for future success. We realize the importance of having a youth perspective in all of our education programs."

Created last year, the [Young Adult Leadership Council](#) is an outgrowth of the Teen Tuesdays and Thursdays program. This program expands the department's scope of reach from teen arts workshops to the development of professional skills.

Says Cioffoletti: "As their next step, Leadership Council members not only gain job readiness skills, but also help us to improve and evaluate current arts educational programming." During the program, Council participants practice career- and college-readiness skills through the lens of arts programming and administration.

While Teen Tuesdays is free for anyone in the 11-17 age range to attend, the Council has an application process. Explains Cioffoletti: "The application process allows youth to get first-hand experience in interviewing and applying for a job." [Applications for the next cycle](#) of the Council program are open through August 13.

Current members of the Council are 15 to 22 years old and represent a range of backgrounds from every community in Westchester County. Their artistic interests cover all areas as well: painting, sculpture, performance art, theater, dance, music and writing.

This past year, Council members were already tasked with adapting to a real-world challenge. The program, after initially planning to meet in person at ArtsWestchester's building in White Plains, was shifted to a monthly Zoom format because of pandemic restrictions.

Still, each meeting has dealt with specific topics that are intended to build members' skill sets. Guest presenters are local arts administrators, ArtsWestchester teaching artists, and other arts professionals. Topics have included how to write personal statements that introduce their goals and construct resumes. They also met with administrators of local arts programs to understand the goals and challenges many organizations face.

A liaison to the program, Alyssa Monte, provides council members with forums for interaction. Participants take advantage of these informal occasions to express their thoughts regarding specific programs, ask questions about their work and interact with fellow council members.

During the year, Council members also applied their newly-acquired skills to evaluate Teen Tuesdays and Thursdays workshops and develop their own workshop proposals, which they will present to their Council peers. These workshop proposals are their culminating projects, which will be presented in person with appropriate social distancing measures in place.

Reflecting on her experience with the program, council member Niara J. Flax says: "The Young Adult Leadership Council gave me a look into the vast work opportunities existing in the art world. It was encouraging to learn that there are so many areas in which your talents can shine, and then learn the skills to get to those roles."

Artist OPPORTUNITIES

ArtsW.org is Westchester County's guide for all-things-art. On its "Artist Opportunities" page, artists in all disciplines can find nearby working opportunities that will help to strengthen and further their careers. Below is a sampling of some upcoming opportunities. To get these opportunities sent directly to your mailbox, [sign up here](#).

Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art (HVMOCA) and Studio Theater in Exile seek submissions for the newest installment of a collaborative project that began fifteen years ago: *Writing the Walls*. Poets and playwrights are invited to submit original works that are reflective of their interactions with artworks on view in HVMOCA's *How We Live: Part II* exhibition. Although previous years of the program culminated in a performance during which poets read their works in front of the artwork that inspired their writing, this year's *Writing the Walls* submissions, like last year, will be presented as an online visual art and word event. A live reading is pending based on COVID-19-related restrictions.

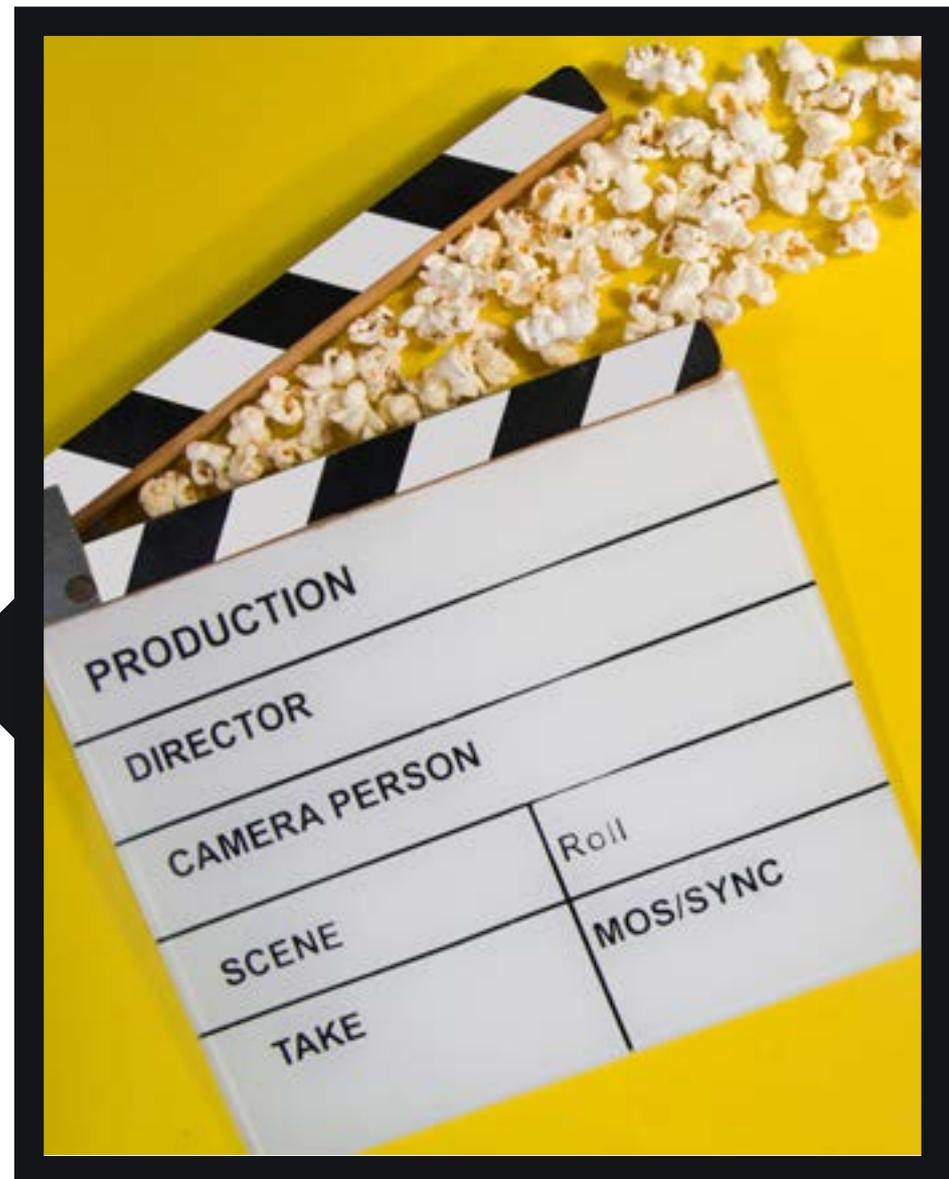
[Deadline: June 15](#)

YoFiFest (Yonkers Film Festival) is calling for film submissions of all kinds for its ninth annual festival. The program offers a full schedule of screenings, workshops, panels, networking opportunities and parties that celebrate independent and local filmmakers. Submissions are encouraged from an array of categories ranging from documentary and animation to television pilots and LGBTQIA-focused films by filmmakers around the world. *ArtsNews* readers will receive 20% off submissions with code YOAW21.

["Regular" Deadline: June 13](#) (Additional deadlines are offered)

Clay Art Center has opened applications for a national juried September exhibition, *A Taste of Home*. Though this exhibition was initially slated for 2020, the theme now takes on new meaning post-pandemic. Artists are asked to submit ceramic cups or drinking vessels that reflect their relationship to the meaning of "home," whether presented as a humble but favored object, vehicle of expression, or object of desire.

[Deadline: May 24](#)



upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

May 2021 Arts Offerings



Anita Graef will perform a livestreamed concert on May 5, presented by Downtown Music at Grace (photo credit: Todd Rosenberg)

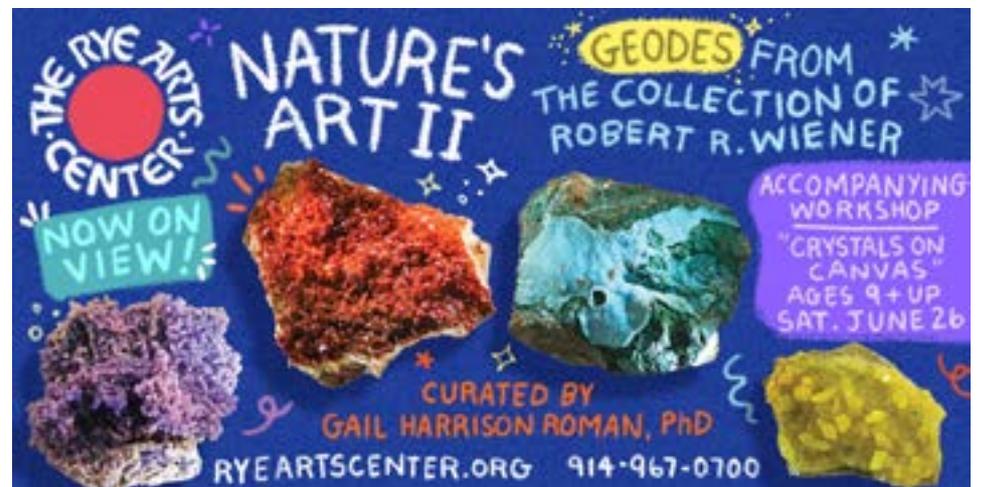
Arc Stages is offering spring acting classes and performance workshops for all ages.

ArtsWestchester will reopen its gallery for **Together apART: Creating During COVID**, an in-person and online exhibition that reflects individual contemplations on the year of the pandemic (**IN PERSON**). On view from May 7- Aug 1. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri & Sun: 12-5pm, Saturday 12-6pm. Its **Lawrence Salley Photography Award virtual exhibition** is currently on view. The organization also offers **ArtsMobile** activities, **Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays** program and more.

Ballet des Amériques presents **Evenings of Dance in Westchester**, a series of live performances of works created by choreographer Carole Alexis (**IN PERSON**). The program will feature new works and pieces from the company's repertoire on May 15 at 5:30 and 7:30pm and May 16 at 2 and 4pm.

- Dancing Caravan at Wainwright House, outdoor dance performances: May 23 at 2:30 and 4:30 (**IN PERSON**)

Bedford Playhouse's Virtual Playhouse brings a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more. The theater will open for in-person events on May 28.



for more arts events, visit artsw.org

Bethany Arts Community will present *(s)mother 2.0*, an exhibition that explores mothering in a time of crisis. The show will feature painting, photography, video and text, and will be on view from May 8-29. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.

- **Open Studio & Demonstration with sculptor Cherie Lee:** May 22 at 2:30pm
- **Reading of STEVE, a one-man play in progress:** May 26 at 7pm
- **Hand painted fashion accessories workshop:** May 12 at 7pm
- **Hudson River Potters Spring Show and Sale:** May 2 at 10am

For more events at Bethany Art Community, [click here](#).

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts offers new live-streamed concerts live-streamed on youtube.com/caramoor, including May 2: Callisto Quartet; May 8: Catherine Russell; and May 23: Junction Trio.

Center for the Digital Arts at Westchester Community College will host classes online and via remote learning. The Center offers digital arts education, including web development, 2D/3D animation, digital video and more. Interested students should contact Dr. Sherry Mayo at sherry.mayo@sunywcc.edu or 914-606-7385.

- Registration Information Session: May 12 at 12:30pm
- Animation 2: May 6 at 9am-1pm

Clay Art Center is open for on-site visits and open studio sessions by appointment (**IN PERSON**). The Center also offers virtual classes, artist lectures and demonstrations, as well as a virtual and in-person exhibition, *Balanced Beauty*, featuring porcelain works by Martha Grover (**IN PERSON**).

Color Camera Club of Westchester will be presenting photographic programs via Zoom. Audiences can also visit the photography club's website to view an exhibition of images from its members. colorcameraclub.com

- Lecture: Great Images From a Cell Phone Camera by Steve Anchell: May 17 at 7:30pm

Copland House's virtual performance and conversation series, *UNDERScoreD*, continues to offer premieres, revivals and classics by American composers.

- **UNDERScoreD: to sing of sins by Annika Socolofsky:** May 24 at 1pm

Downtown Music at Grace is broadcasting its noon concerts of chamber music and a variety of genres on its [YouTube page](#).

- Virtual Concerts, all taking place at 12:15pm, include: May 5: Anita Graef with the Juliani Ensemble; May 12: Jomion & the Uklos; May 15: Peter Muir, The Rise of Ragtime; and May 26: Angelica

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Emelin Theatre is presenting a diverse roster of virtual events, including Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands (May 14-16), including its seasonal Film Club.

Friends of Music Concerts' virtual concert series, featuring members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, will continue on May 10-17. Paul Neubauer will perform works by Schumann and Shostakovich.

Greenburgh Arts and Culture Committee will host its Kids Short Story Connection series of Zoom writing workshops. Young writers aged 10-17 will work in a virtual, roundtable setting to develop their creativity, improve old stories and write new ones. For more information, contact Sarah Bracey White, (914) 682-1574 or via email at bracey0114@aol.com.

The Ground Glass presents *The Written Word*, an online exhibition featuring photographs that expresse and interpret the written media in daily lives. The group's online photography exhibition, *Abstractions*, is also on view. thegroundglass.org

- Reception: *Road Show Photography Exhibition*: May 6 at 5pm at the Ossining Public Library

Hammond Museum presents an Artist Members' Virtual Gallery, featuring the works of the museum's members through June 5. For a complete list of programs and workshops, visit hammondmuseum.org.

Harrison Public Library will present *Cerealism*, a virtual art exhibition that features the cubist mosaic cereal box collages of Michael Albert. The library also hosts virtual workshops for teens and adults via Zoom, online book clubs, yoga classes for adults and more. For a complete list of programs, virtual classes and workshops, visit harrisonpl.org/events/harrison.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School offers a *virtual Master Class Series*, which consists of class coaching by guest artists, world-class musicians and educators.

Hudson River Museum presents *Border Cantos | Sonic Border*, a collaboration between photographer Richard Misrach and sculptor and composer Guillermo Galindo that addresses the humanitarian situation at the wall between the U.S. and Mexico (IN PERSON). Also on view: *Librado Romero (IN PERSON) and Landscape Art & Virtual Travel: Highlights from the Collections of the HRM and Art Bridges (IN PERSON)*. Museum Hours: Thurs-Sun: 12–5pm.

Hudson Stage Company will host a free virtual staged reading of an original one-act play, *This Doesn't Work*, on May 15 at 8pm.



"Songs of Spring"

Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art presents exhibitions *How We Live* and *How We Live, Part II*. Virtual tours, and an in-depth Peekskill Sculpture Trail Walk are available on the Museum's website. Hours: Thursday-Saturday by appointment.

Hudson Valley Writers Center will present free readings throughout the month and a special offer on Slapering Hol Press chapbooks. A series of classes and readings, all online, are open for registration.

- ***The Alchemy of Autofiction with Anna Potter via Zoom:***
May 1 at 12:30pm
- ***Poetry Craft Class with Kirun Kapur (via Zoom):***
May 8 at 12:30pm

For more programs from Hudson Valley Writers Center, [click here](#).

Irvington Theater will stream *Cleanse*, a new play by Christina Franklin, on May 21-23. Courtney loves the internet, but hates what it's doing to her. In order to reclaim control of her offline life, she must face her online past.

for more arts events, visit artsw.org



"virtual concert with pianist Wynona Wang presented by The Sanctuary Series, 5/9 (photo source: wynonapiano.com)

Jacob Burns Film Center has reopened to the public with in-person screenings of *Nomadland*, *Limbo*, *The Human Voice* and more. **(IN PERSON)** The center also continues to screen new releases and repertory films in its Virtual Screening Room.

- Screening: *The Truffle Hunters* and *Minari*. May 7 **(IN PERSON)**

Jazz Forum Arts continues its *Jazz Forum @ Home* virtual concert series on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm, and *Jitterbugs @ Home*, which provides online jazz classes for kids.

John Jay Homestead's site offers interactive activities, such as children's projects, a virtual tour and downloadable worksheets on its website. johnjayhomestead.org

Katonah Museum of Art is displaying *Still/Live*, an exhibition that explores how contemporary artists working in photography, video, and new media are reimagining the genre of still life **(IN PERSON)**.

Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

Lagond Music School's LIVE! from the Haven and the Lasdon Foundation will present "Flip the Stage," an evening that presents a mix of upbeat rhythms of funk, rock and roll and blues to honor and to remember Miles Applebaum featuring Brooklyn Sugar Company hosted by Rich Nesin.

Lyndhurst Mansion will reopen for *Daily Grounds Passes* on May 3 and weekend landscape tours beginning May 7 **(IN PERSON)**. The mansion also offers virtual offerings, such as 360-degree tours and online exhibitions.

- **The Spring Craft Show at Lyndhurst**: May 1 at 10am-6pm, May 2 at 10am-5pm
- **Virtual Flower Show**: Now on view
- **Mother's Day Plant Sale**: May 8 at 10am-2pm

Mamaroneck Artists Guild (MAG) presents an Online Fine Crafts and 3D Show through May 15 and *Spring Approaches*, an in-person exhibition at Bronxville Women's Club on May 1-28. The gallery is also displaying its annual *Open Juried Small Works Show* and *Urban Nature*, featuring works that contrast urban, suburban and natural environments.

- **Onsite Opening Reception - Spring Approaches**: May 2 at 2pm

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Sixth Avenue Boogie by Tad Philipp, on view in the Ground Glass virtual exhibition, Abstractions (photo courtesy of Ground Glass)

Neuberger Museum of Art is open to the public and presents new exhibitions featuring works from the museum's collections: *African Art and Culture, Then and Now: Modern and Contemporary Selections and Color and Motion, Ideas and Dreams: Modern and Contemporary Caribbean and South American Art*. Pre-recorded 20-minute guided meditations are available on its website, as well as weekly art-related projects and activities for kids.

- Wellness Wednesday: Guided Meditation: **May 12 & 26** at 1pm

New Choral Society will stream a performance of *Fauré's Requiem in D minor, Op. 48* with organ, strings and harp accompaniment. The program will be available through May.

Oak & Oil Gallery will display *Recent Works* by Linda Puiatti on May 14-July 6. Her new ethereal abstract paintings will be showcased alongside her representational works of landscapes, barns, sky and waterways. The gallery is also exhibiting *Spring Greeting*, a series of

contemporary florals and light drenched landscapes by painter Cynthia Mullins **(IN PERSON)** through May 3.

- Opening Reception: *Recent works* by Linda Puiatti: May 21 at 5:30-8:30

Pelham Art Center presents Matthew Cole as the winner of the 11th Biennial Alexander Rutsch Award for Painting. A solo exhibition of paintings by Cole will be on view May 15-June 26 **(IN PERSON)**. The exhibition also includes a selection of original works by Alexander Rutsch.

- In Gallery & Virtual Opening: Rutsch Award Winner Matthew Cole Exhibition: **May 15 at 1pm (IN PERSON)** and **May 20 at 6pm**
- **Expressive Painting Workshop**: May 26 at 2pm

The Picture House Regional Film Center offers film screenings via its virtual cinema and continues its Education at Home program, which

for more arts events, visit artsw.org

presents short films with discussion questions and activities for students of any grade level.

- The Picture House Film Club With Marshall Fine (Virtual): Through May 12 at 7:30pm
- **May Film Study: Asian American Films:** Thursdays, May 6-27: 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom

The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College's online offerings include a range of live, recorded and curated events, education and entertainment.

The Play Group Theatre's programs have been adapted for in-person social distance and online participation for Spring 2021. Registration is now open for programs in Community Connection, Young Actor Co., Little Theatre, PGT Kids, Teen Co., On Camera, Musical Theatre Boot Camp, Design/Tech and Virtual Stage.

RiverArts presents **Imprint of Light**, a dance, music and video collaboration that will be broadcasted on Zoom on May 8 at 8pm. Choreographer and dancer Maxine Sherman and composer and videographer Steven Brent collaborate in this new work that explores the human spirit and its relationship to the 4 elements of the earth.

- **Virtual Salon Sundays**, a series of local artists' studio tours: May 2 & 16 at 3pm
- **Open Mic Night:** May 20 at 8pm

Riverfront Art Gallery at the Yonkers Public Library presents **A Higher Power**, an exhibit by Elvira Clayton that tells the stories of enslaved people, but also the dreams of African Americans today.

- Opening Reception- **Higher Power:** May 8 at 1-4:30pm
- Live Artist Talk - Elvira Clayton: May 14 at 1pm

The Rye Arts Center offers in-person and virtual classes in drawing, painting, ceramics and more.

- **Make A Hound Dog With Polymer Clay Workshop:** May 22 at 2 & 3pm **(IN PERSON)**
- **Wabi Sabi Broken Bowl Ceramics Workshop for Couples:** May 23 at 10am
- **Loosen Up and Paint Workshop- BYOB Night Out:** May 26 at 6:15pm **(IN PERSON)**

The Sanctuary Series presents "Songs of Spring," a virtual concert of works by Scarlatti, Rachmaninoff and Schumann with pianist Wynona Wang on May 9 at 4pm. The concert will be performed in the sanctuary of the South Salem Presbyterian Church and streamed live on Facebook.



Andrew Alli and Jontavious Willis, by Frank Matheis

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The Schoolhouse Theater's Pandemic Players will continue to present free Zoom readings of an assortment of plays.

- Zoom Reading- *Buyer and Cellar*. May 1 at 3pm

Steffi Nossen School of Dance is offering virtual dance classes. Classes include modern, ballet, jazz tap, hip-hop, pre-professional programs and more.

Tarrytown Music Hall's "Night In With the Music Hall" series continues with weekly livestream concerts via its Facebook and YouTube pages.

- May 1: Milton will perform live with socially-distanced seating. The event will be simultaneously livestreamed.

The Village Squares Quilters will host a Zoom lecture with Rita Lynne on May 11 at 12pm. For information or to request the Zoom link, please email: vsq@villagesquaresquilters.com.

Westchester Children's Museum continues its **virtual learning programs and resources**, with STEAM activities for the whole family, an early literacy interactive program and more.

Westchester Collaborative Theater presents "GenZ Outloud Reading," a virtual short play festival featuring works by Hudson Valley's aspiring young writers on May 20-23. The "GenZ Outloud Reading" is the first part of the Theater's inaugural Hudson Valley New Voices Festival taking place through June 20.

Westchester Craft Crawl presents its 2nd biannual outdoor artist-organized craft tour, featuring 56 regional professional craft artists from Westchester, NYC and the Hudson Valley region.

White Plains Public Library is open to the public and allows a limited number of patrons into the building to browse and borrow materials **(IN PERSON)**. The **library's webpage** also provides online resources for families. Library hours: Mon-Thurs: 10am-7pm and Fri-Sat: 1-5pm.



Wabi Sabi Bowl Ceramics Workshop for Couples presented by Rye Arts Center, 5/23 (photo courtesy of Rye Arts Center)

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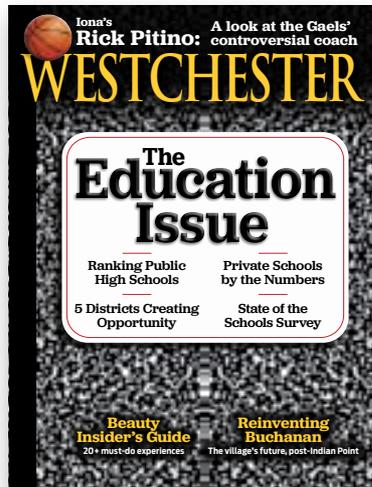
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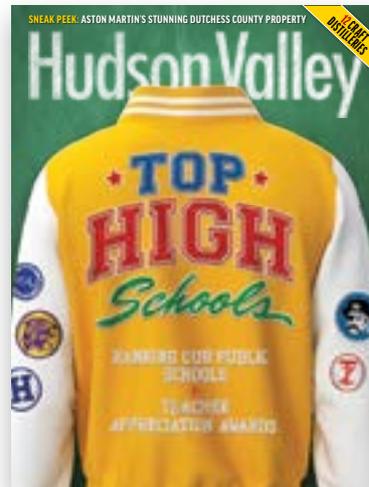
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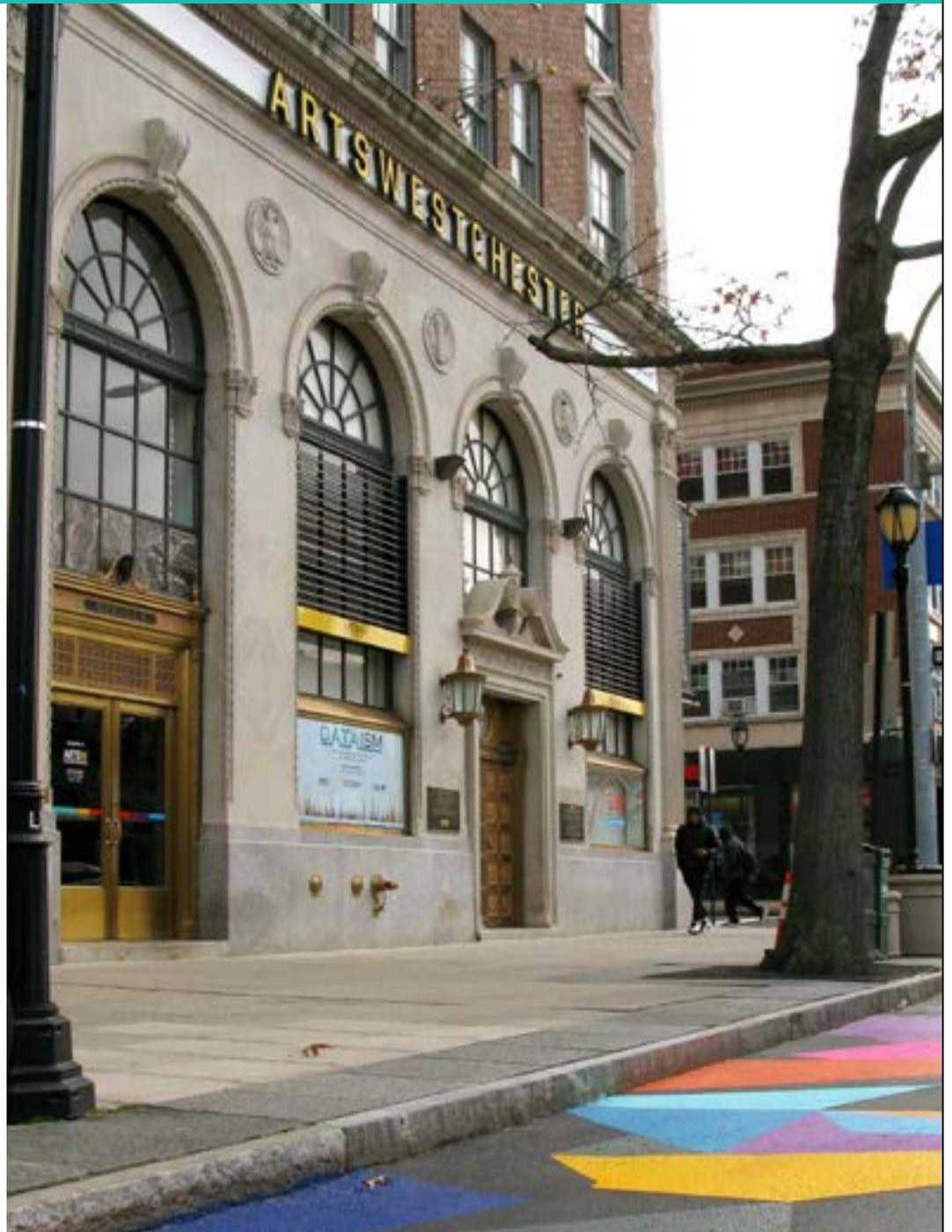
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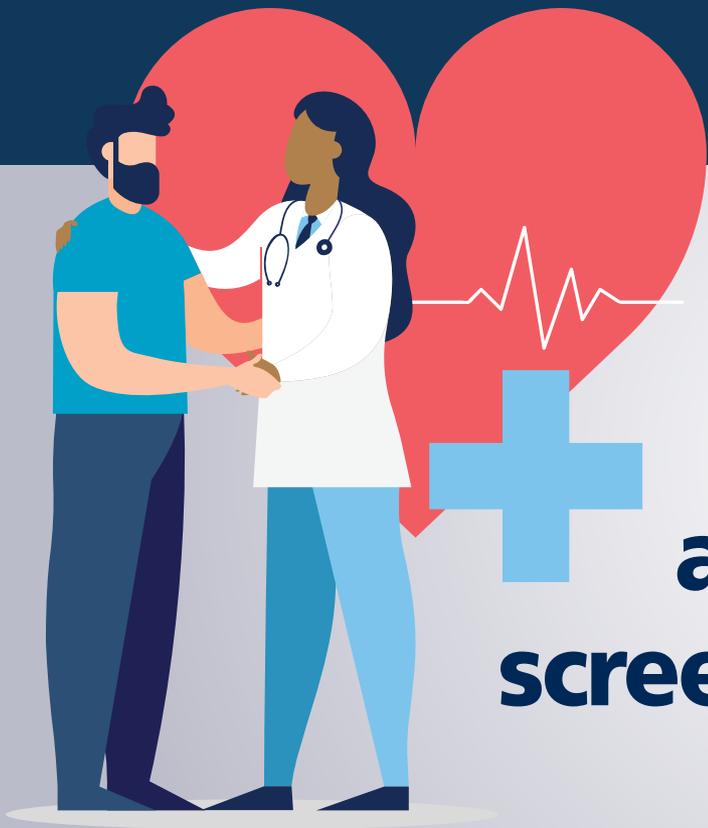
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