

## Secret(er) by Keith Mendak

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Organized by Calder Zwicky, the work was shown in January at The West Side Arts Coalition which, many years ago, was a public restroom for the subway. Transformed in the 1970s by artists and the local community into a dynamic space for groups to meet and artists to show their work, sculptor Mendak incorporated the history of the building in a site-specific installation, mysteriously entitled, "Secret(er)" where the pieces reflected the "duende" of earthbound human realities.

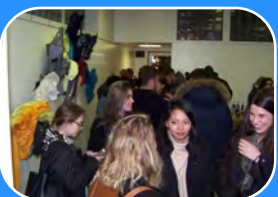
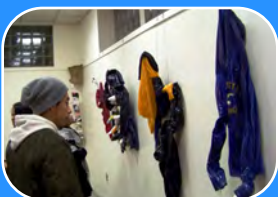
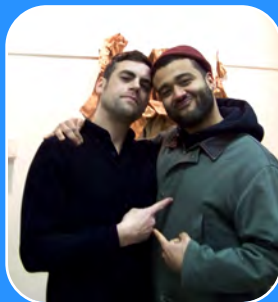
Besides being a sculptor, Mr. Mendak creates in glass and teaches art in the New York City public high school system working with adolescents. His sculptures in "Secret(er)" are composed of teenagers' clothing – hoodies and sweatshirts along with the plastic and paper bag detritus of New York City. Not classical with ideal proportions, the subjects have the feeling of mundane street life, providing the viewer with the sense of an upfront, personal tactileness through the use of everyday materials.

The show's title reflects the sculptor's need to express the underbelly of New York street life where subway public restrooms were places for sometimes clandestine, anonymous sexual activity and nefarious drug and alcohol use. Adolescence is a time of sexual awakening, primarily expressed secretly. Mr. Mendak has kept this in mind in these pieces where he shows the psychological and physical drama entailed in growing up in forms that agitatedly move across the walls with almost palpable desperation, evoking teenagers' struggles with new urgent bodily needs, sometimes satisfied in unsavory, secreted public places.

Among the mundane materials, the sculptor uses paper grocery bags, reconfigured as masks depicting anonymous faces. He explained that young people oftentimes feel alienated, alone and unappreciated, unable to make warm, human connections with others in the city's overwhelming maelstrom, and here the use of these receptacles as masks underscores this.

The sense of isolation is particularly strong in the large piece on one side of the gallery. There is great gesture and movement in the colorful work where the hooded human-like forms provide an overall sense of agitated, groping and grasping as they trip and fall into each other, perhaps running from something, desperately trying to communicate and connect.

Mr. Mendak's compositional decisions, based upon a painterly vision of forceful brushstrokes as the foundations contributing to the realization of these pieces, influence the works' drama. He strives to create a sense of power where the disenfranchised youngsters' feelings are acknowledged and given real meaning. The sculpted clothing forms reach out for connection and, at the same time, express fear of doing so, indicative of adolescent confusion. In this show, Keith Mendak demonstrates faith in young people, saying that he really cares and they are not alone, bringing the secret life to daylight where emotions can be clearly realized.





## MEMBER NEWS

**Janice Wood Wetzel** published a memoir, "Sorrows & Songs: One Lifetime - Many Lives." For more information, visit [www.sorrowandsongs.com](http://www.sorrowandsongs.com).

**Robin Goodstein** will have a painting in the Gramercy Neighborhood Association's Annual Art Show from March 15-26 at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South. Reception: Thursday, March 17, 6-8pm. Hours: Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm.

**Carole Richard Kaufmann** is planning an open studio event with several artists at her artist filled studio building, 315 West 39th St (8-9th Aves), Thurs, April 14th, 5-8pm & Sat, April 16th, 12-5pm.

**Daniel C. and Silvia Soares Boyer** had work in the art fair at the Staten Island Arts Culture Lounge in Staten Island (February 11-12); have work in "Out of Your Mind," East End Arts Gallery in Riverhead, Long Island (January 29 - March 4); will have work in "The Egg Project," Budapest Stamp Museum, Budapest, Hungary (March 25 - April 1); and have work included in the collections of the Provo Museum of Mail Art, Provo, UT.

**Daniel** also has work in the 1st International Mail Art Biennial, Namik Kemal University of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture, Tekirdağ, Turkey (March 23).

## Share Your News with the WSAC Community!

If you would like to submit "Member News," Short Poems (20 lines or less), or art related quotes to be shared with our community in future

Newsletters, please send **PLAIN TEXT ONLY** (no images or flyers), including your name, in an email to [wsacnews@gmail.com](mailto:wsacnews@gmail.com).

Please note that Newsletters are sent out at the beginning of each month, so **make sure to submit your news by the 13th of the month** for the following month's Newsletter. News should be current; please **DO NOT** send news about exhibitions that took place more than 1 month prior (not current) or more than 2 months in advance, as it is difficult to keep track of the future news for each of our many members.

We will try to be as inclusive as possible, but please keep in mind that there are space and time limitations, and submissions may be edited for clarity, brevity, and space.

## By Herbert Evans

## Stale Rains, Sweet Loves

Coltrane, drifts through the emptiness of my room I am all alone.  
Sweet loves, whisper low, of yesterday and more while nothing changes  
anyhow you know.

Now everyone needs to know, that love don't really go away, banging at other  
folks' doors until each hurt mellows into tears.

But, some how it doesn't matter.

Who knows if love could hang around a little more.

So, I wish it would stop raining outside long enough to remember our last  
good bye.

When you went away like you said you would, and I don't know what I should  
do if you really said  
somehow, we can't share this love and I know. it's going to stop raining  
outside.

But until it does I think I'll just go on crying, anyhow, cause  
it's still going to be stale rains...

Sweet loves casting their eyes every sort of way.

Darken from yesterday hurts, while we mellow a while  
dreaming up things that ain't real.

So Coltrane drifts through my bleeding soul, heaving sweet  
nothings...

I know, but whos cares, anyhow, cause ain't I the world object  
of your sighs, for the day anyway...

Cause love ain't going now ways, as long as it's raining outside.

Stale Rains...Sweet Love...Whisper Me a Lullaby.



### Crossroad Opening Reception January 30, 2016

Photos © Jean Prytyskacz

(Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Carolyn Reus (Guest) & Xavier Figueroa; Dr. Barry Pinchefskey; George Cavalletto; Xavier Figueroa; Angellos Malefakis, Laurens Mckenzie, & Gloriana Roig; Jessica Nooney

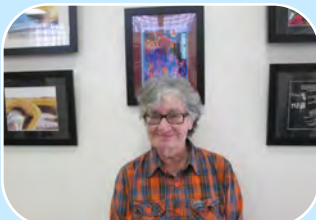


Photo © Carolyn Reus

### Message from the International Center of Photography (ICP):

If you'd like to submit work for review, you can submit a digital portfolio of 20 works via email to [portfolio@icp.org](mailto:portfolio@icp.org). We don't provide critical reviews, but if the work fits with a project that a curator is working on, we will be in touch.

## Poetry Corner

Riverside Poets' Open Poetry Readings take place the first Saturday of each month at the NYPL Riverside Branch, 127 Amsterdam Avenue (between 65th and 66th Streets) from 3-5 pm. Poetry Workshops are held on the remaining Saturdays of each month. To RSVP or for more information, please call 212.870.1810 or email [riversidepoets@live.com](mailto:riversidepoets@live.com).

Riverside Poets published their 15th Volume of Riverside Poets Anthology which is available for purchase. Flabbergasted Press, 142 West End Ave. #27L, NY, NY 10023, [nlevynyc@aol.com](mailto:nlevynyc@aol.com) or [riversidepoetrygroup@gmail.com](mailto:riversidepoetrygroup@gmail.com).

Parkside Poets holds Poetry Workshops on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm. If interested in participating, please call David Elsasser at 917-892-3988 or email [elsasserdavid@gmail.com](mailto:elsasserdavid@gmail.com).

## 2015-2016 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

(F) = Fine Arts  
(P) = Photography  
(M) = Craft / MultiMedia

September 12 - 27, 2015 (F)

### Fall for Art

Linda Lessner & Carole Barlowe

September 30 - October 18, 2015 (F)

### Artists & Poetry

Women in the Arts, Sponsored by the WSAC

October 21 - November 1, 2015 (F)

### Autumn Thoughts

Anne Rudder

November 4 - 22, 2015 (P)

### Open 2015

Carolyn Reus

November 25 - December 13, 2015 (F)

### Free Expression 2015

Sonia Barnett

December 16, 2015 - January 9, 2016 (F)

### A Gift of Art 2015

Linda Lessner

January 13 - 24, 2016 (F - Solo)

### Keith Mendak's Art

January 27 - February 14, 2016 (P)

### Crossroad

Xavier Figueroa

February 17 - March 6, 2016 (F)

### Black Renaissance 2016

Sonia Barnett

#### ARTISTS:

Sonia Barnett	Gregory Mobley
JW Ford	Amy Rosenfeld
Georgianna Grantham	Dorethea Scott
Nate Ladson	Robert Scott
Ba djibril Ngawa	Elton Tucker

March 9 - 27, 2016 (P)

### Flora

Carolyn Reus

March 30 - April 17, 2016 (F)

### Dreams & Reflections 2016

Daniel & Silvia Soares Boyer

April 20 - May 8, 2016 (P)

### Broadway Regards

Jean Prytyskacz

May 11 - 15, 2016 (F - Solo)

### Joseph Paul Fox's Art

June 1 - 19, 2016 (F)

### Inspirations

Clare Stokolosa

June 22 - July 10, 2016 (F / P / M)

### Salon Show 2016

Linda Lessner & Margo Mead

## EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

### SOLO SHOW OPPORTUNITY

For information about a possible two week solo or dual exhibition of your work at the Broadway Mall Gallery, please contact Anne Rudder: rudderanne@gmail.com.

March 30 - April 17, 2016

### Dreams & Reflections 2016

A Fine Arts Exhibit

Hanging: March 27, 6:45 pm

Reception: April 2, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Removal: April 17, 6 pm

#### Curators:

Daniel & Silvia Soares Boyer  
137 Thompson St., Apt. 13  
New York, NY 10012-3174  
646.767.0331  
danielcboyer@yahoo.com

April 20 - May 8, 2016

### Broadway Regards

A Photography Exhibit

Hanging: April 17, 6:45 pm

Opening Reception: April 23, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Closing Reception: May 8, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Removal: May 8, 6 pm

#### Curator:

Jean Prytyskacz  
PO Box 1575  
Valley Stream, NY 11582  
jeanlynn5@hotmail.com

\*Theme: Any photos of Broadway the street, from Manhattan to Westchester, NY (including the theater district). Photography in any style or format (color, B&W, analog, digital).

\*\*If you have any questions or would like to participate in these shows, please submit the emailed Exhibit Entry Form, Image Samples, and a \$60 check (unless otherwise noted) to the appropriate Curator.

June 1 - 19, 2016

### Inspirations

A Fine Arts Exhibit

Hanging: Tuesday, May 31, 6:00 pm

Reception: June 4, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Removal: June 19, 6 pm

#### Curator:

Clare Stokolosa  
2 Bay Club Dr., Apt. 14v  
Bayside, NY 11360  
516.532.4624  
clares@aol.com

June 22 - July 10, 2016

### Salon Show 2016

A Fine Arts, Photography, & Crafts Exhibit

Hanging: June 19, 6:45 pm

Reception: June 25, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Removal: July 10, 6 pm

Fee: \$40

Curators: Linda Lessner & Margo Mead

Margo Mead  
41 West 96 Street, #13C  
New York, NY 10025  
212.663.1355  
meadart@gmail.com

## OUTSIDE SHOW OPPORTUNITIES

### Hostelling International

891 Amsterdam Ave (103-104 St)

**Photoetry:** A Photography Exhibit

December 1, 2015 - January 1, 2016

Theme: Photography & Poetry

Reception: December 5, 2015

Curated by: Jean Prytyskacz

### La Galeria at Boricua College

3755 Broadway (155-156 St), 4th Fl.

April 5 - 25, 2016

**Art Bloom:** A Fine Arts Exhibit

Curated by: Linda Lessner & Margo Mead

Delivery: April 4, 11am - 12 pm

Hanging: April 4, 1-5 pm

Reception: April 8, 6-8 pm

Removal: April 26, 4-5:30 pm

Margo Mead  
41 West 96 Street, #13C  
New York, NY 10025  
212.663.1355  
meadart@gmail.com

## MEMBERS' MARKETPLACE

**Do you have a special art related skill, product, or service that you would like to advertise?**

We have launched a new page on the WSAC Website called "Members' Marketplace." For more information, please email [meadart@gmail.com](mailto:meadart@gmail.com) with the subject:

Members' Marketplace

## FRIENDS OF THE WSAC



West Side Arts Coalition gives a big shout out to **Fairway** (above) for its continued support of our Artists' Receptions.

These "Friends of the WSAC" extend discounts to WSAC members. We hope you will patronize these gracious merchants.

<b>Bob's Frame Shop</b>	2713 Broadway
<b>Gelabert Studios</b>	255 W 86th St
<b>Global Copy</b>	2578 Broadway
<b>Ivy League Stationers</b>	2955 Broadway
<b>Ivy League Stationers</b>	1201 Amsterdam
<b>Lee's Art Shop</b>	220 W 57th St
<b>Metro Grand Hardware</b>	2554 Broadway
<b>Quad Right</b>	242 W 36th St