



*Bringing
Artists
Together
with the
Community*

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**Broadway Mall
Community Center**
96th Street & Broadway (center isle)
Hours: Wed 6 - 8 pm
Sat & Sun 12 - 6 pm

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ARE YOU MOVING? Please advise us immediately of any changes in address, phone number, etc. Send this information via mail to the attention of "Membership Chair" or via email to wsacnyc@gmail.com.

February 15 - March 5, 2017

Black Renaissance 2017 A Fine Arts Exhibit

By Anne Rudder
Curated by Sonia Barnett
Photos © Herb Fogelson



Group Photo of Artists from "Black Renaissance 2017"

I had the pleasure of viewing "Black Renaissance 2017" just recently at The West Side Arts Coalition. The curator, Sonia Barnett, always shows off the work to its best advantage and this was no exception. As it is Black History Month, African-American heritages were well represented in this exhibit. On a personal note, I look to the day when there will be no need for ethnic history months and all of us are viewed as one cohesive group of people in what would truly be The United States! Hopefully, that day is not far off. *(Continued on Page 2)*

"Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish."

— Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment for the Arts

Thank You & Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the WSAC:

Jessica Alazraki
Alice Hunsberger
Jennifer Isaacs-Policastro
Nahida Niki Khanam
Eliza McNally

And a huge thank you to:

Eliza McNally
Elton Tucker
for their generous contributions!

ANNUAL MEETING of the West Side Arts Coalition

When: Monday, April 3, 2017, 7-9:30 pm

Where: The West Side Arts Coalition
Broadway Mall Community Center

West 96 Street & Broadway (center island)

How: 1 2 3 Trains or M104 or M96 Buses

**FREE WSAC RAFFLE
FOR MEMBERS:**

You could be the winner of
a free exhibit next season!

The West Side Arts Coalition Board is delighted to invite all Members to our Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 from 7-9:30 pm. Along with conducting WSAC business, this special evening offers us an opportunity for social time, to enjoy refreshments while sharing our creative journeys.

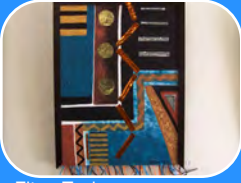
Bring a sample of your art to Show & Tell or just talk about it, or listen & learn from fellow artists! See you on April 3rd at 7 pm!



Sonia Barnett

Sonia Barnett ably curated the show and my viewing began with consideration of one of Barnett's pieces, "Sankofa Birds." The artist said these birds symbolically looked back at the ancestors in the African Homeland and she took inspiration in making her brightly colored pieces from The Smithsonian Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.

Two other artists who conjured up the ancestors were **Elton Tucker** and **Petronia Paley**. In the mixed media "Tribal Rhythm" and "Joy for Life," Tucker referred to the majestic past in his use of colors and geometric designs. Paley celebrated the past too in the beautifully realized, "Untitled Man #1," where I saw a tribal shaman, with elaborate headdress feathers and moss, symbolic of nature, so that the figure could be interpreted as the primal human, root of all succeeding civilizations.



Elton Tucker

Georgianna Grantham showcased a strong black and white acrylic in "I Dream in Black and White," where energetic line work could be seen bursting forth in black from a white ground. It was a study in primal rhythms where the circular sun-disk at the bottom of the painting pulsated before my eyes in a brilliant swirl.



Petronia Paley

Robert N. Scott, again, painted his cosmic visions in his work, "Imani," with planetary worlds moving unendingly throughout the universe. The word "imani" in one definition, means "faith" in Swahili and perhaps Scott was sending out a message that the universe is everlasting and we should believe in its power to sustain divine order.

Dorothea Scott collaged a powerful psychological portrait of the actor Terrence Howard in her mixed media piece, "We Are Ready." Howard gazed intently from the surface of the work so that a professional headshot morphed into a strong, dramatic portrait with the actor's eyes looking out directly from the picture, confronting the viewer. This actor was ready to tackle any challenges presented to him.



Georgianna Grantham

In "The Card Players" the painter, **Helen Henry**, seemed to allude to Cezanne's painting of the same name. In Henry's oil on canvas, the game participants sat at a table, perhaps in a Harlem lounge, around a bottle of rum, in modern-day garb, powerfully focused on their game. As in Cezanne's painting, the subjects were absorbed in their pastime so that their surroundings were secondary to the intensity of their activity.

Mimi Mayer's intricate pen and ink drawing, "Orisha Paradise," was a depiction of African deities on paper. The gods of the earth intermingled with the heavens and the oceans in an idyllic habitat. The rhythm of the lines underscored the realized and unseen energies at the heart of the Orisha secrets, a celebration of life's sacred mysteries.



Robert N. Scott

Xenia Garamvolgyi painted an ebullient portrait of a woman named Anduska. This oil on canvas depicted a gracious, elegant, mature woman where the joy of life radiated from her face. The actual subject was really a ninety year old woman whose father was African and mother, Sicilian. Garamvolgyi painted happiness in a cultural amalgam, energetically communicated.

JW Ford's intriguing acrylic, "Harlem Griot's Cane," was a study for a larger painting that is currently in process. Ford provided the viewer with an up-close consideration of an African story teller's accessory. The artist told me that there are many men in Harlem who are Griots who walk with intricately carved canes in homage to the African homeland. Griot canes here in America are carved by African people and are symbolic of the lost motherland where so many people were brutally separated from their histories by colonial slavers.



Dorothea Scott

Amy Rosenfeld contributed an earnest collage entitled "Peace," where she continued her exploration of wordplay in paint. Here, she demonstrated an ardent hope for concord and unity in the world through letters written on a bright yellow field.

Margarita Ballester provided a wonderful mixed media piece, "Rhythm and Harmony." Words by towering figures in the history of struggle leapt out from the work's surface in inspirational messages. Ballester quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., Langston Hughes, Harriet Tubman, Malcom X, Jesse Jackson, and Maya Angelou in this work, celebrating freedom fighters in a cohesive and moving composition.



Helen Henry

Nate Ladson, as always, painted his subjects with gravitas. This time, he took on violence in the African-American community today. His painting, "Tragedy Strikes Again," poignantly showed children standing by a sign asking for "Love, not Hate," so that there is true Peace in the future. This was an earnest and heart-rending depiction of innocence in the face of the brutality of gun violence. The children stood before the sign, ringed by memorial candles in tribute to someone who had died as a result of this senseless cause of death.

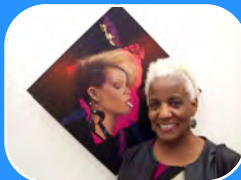
This year's exhibit covered a broad range of experience by African-American artists, from commentary on ancestral origins cut short by vicious transport to slavery, modern American violence, and celebrations of the long cultural history of so many people in Mother Africa. Black Renaissance 2017, a beautiful, satisfying experience for me, made me hope that one day, when February rolls around, we will hold an exhibit encompassing the incredible magnificence of all humankind, and in so doing, banish any kind of prejudicial mark to the dustbin of discredited history.



Mimi Mayer



Xenia Garamvolgyi



JW Ford



Amy Rosenfeld



Margarita Ballester



Nate Ladson

**Black
Renaissance
2017**

(Continued from
Page 1)

MEMBER NEWS

Ba Djibril Ngawa is working on a collaboration with the world known calligrapher, Prof. Liguodong, combining his artistic Chinese calligraphy and Ngawa's artistic expression on large murals.

Amy Rosenfeld (screen name: Annie Kravitz) is a supporting actress in a feature film, "Keep the Change," a romance/comedy about an autistic couple, which will have its world premier and screenings at the Tribeca Film Festival (April 19-30). The film will be shown on four days -- please check the festival's website (tribecafilm.com) for the schedule and tickets. Two of Amy's paintings are in the background of one of the scenes as well.

Tom Sanford is in an exhibition of new paintings and drawings, "Greetings From Harlem," The Palm Tree Gallery, 291 Portobello Road, London W10 5TD, March 23 (private viewing from 6-9PM) - April 18. For more information visit palmtreegallery.com; and will exhibit his painting of the California Condor in "BIRDS OF AMERICA: An Exploration of Audubon. The Paintings of Larry Rivers and Others" at 101/Exhibit Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, April 1 - May 13, for more information: 101exhibit.com.

Daniel C. and **Silvia Soares Boyer** will have work in "6x6x2017," Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY (June 3 - July 16).

Daniel also sold a painting in "Postcards from the Edge" at Metro Pictures Gallery in Chelsea to a Manhattan collector and it is with deep sadness and sorrow that he would like to inform that his little sister, Mrs. Allison Eleanor Boyer, passed away on March 3, 2017. She was born in Hancock, MI on February 19, 1974, and was living in unincorporated Pima County, AZ for several years. May she rest in peace.

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.

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 Peter Blaxill

Perhaps We Should Try It

Let's spread out a blanket have a picnic tomorrow.
The sun will shine as it has never shone before
out weatherman tells us and he should know.
We'll eat peaches and plums drinks whiskey too.

The sun that shines as never before
will warm us as it glows down deep to our bones.
Peaches, plums, good whiskey will warm us too
as we hold sad hands, feeling no pain.

The sun's warmth as it glows will call out, "Hello, bones,
I'm here to celebrate you, flesh and all.
That's it! Hold your sad hands and know no pain.
Now kiss the heat on your lips and do not stop."

Yes, we'll be there to celebrate our flesh and all
beneath where buttoned clothes have kept us in hiding.
The heat from your lips will say, "I hope we don't stop,"
as it heats up my lips no thought of stopping,

until buttoned clothes peeled off, we're no longer in hiding
our weatherman will tell us and he will know.
All the pain gone and all sorrow.
So let's spread out a blanket have a picnic tomorrow

March 8 - 26, 2017 Springtime in New York A Photography Exhibition

Curated by & Photos ©
Jean Prytskacz



(Pictured Above, Top to Bottom) Adoniah Rahsan, Deena Weintraub & Guest; Gloriana Roig & Carolyn Reus; Owen Duckett Jr. & Guest

We Need Your Help!

As you know, WSAC is run by an entirely volunteer board of directors, and we rely on membership and the generosity of our community to operate. We understand that monetary donations are not always possible for everyone, so here is another way to help us serve our mission of "Bringing Artists Together with the Community"!

Like our artists, WSAC holds high standards for the professional presentation of your work. To achieve this, we would like to give the Broadway Mall Community Center Gallery floors a bit of a "refreshing," as we think cleaner floors will provide a more professional environment, allowing artwork to shine. We are looking for volunteers and/or supplies to help with the cleaning, and are hopeful that our membership will contribute to bringing our community gallery space up to the standards our artists deserve. Please contact Margo Mead at meadart@gmail.com.

2016-2017 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

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

September 21 - October 9, 2016 (F)

September Show
Linda Lessner & Carole Barlowe

October 12 - October 16, 2016 (M)

Dual Show: Mistakes Were Made
Artists Anonymous

October 17 - 31, 2016

Broadway Mall Community Center Show

November 2 - 20, 2016 (P)

Open 2016
Carolyn Reus

November 23 - December 11, 2016 (F)

Free Expression 2016
Sonia Barnett

December 14, 2016 - January 1, 2017 (F)

Holiday Happiness!?
Anne Rudder & Georgianna Grantham

January 4 - 22, 2017 (F)

Winter's Art
Linda Lessner

January 25 - February 12, 2017 (P)

Character Portrayal
Xavier Figueroa

February 15 - March 5, 2017 (F)

Black Renaissance 2017
Sonia Barnett

March 8 - 26, 2017 (P)

Springtime in New York
Jean Prytyskacz

March 29 - April 16, 2017 (F)

Seasonal Palette
Clare Stokolosa

April 19 - May 7, 2017 (F)

Dreams & Reflections 2017
Daniel & Silvia Soares Boyer

May 10 - 14, 2017 (F)

Solo Show: Celebrate Latino Life
Jessica Alazraki

May 15 - 29, 2017

Broadway Mall Community Center Show

May 31 - June 11, 2017 (P)

Sideshow
Jean Prytyskacz

June 14 - 18, 2017

Solo Show: Transformation of Waste
Joseph Healy

June 21 - July 9, 2017 (F/P/M)

Salon Show 2017
Linda Lessner & Margo Mead

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.

June 21 - July 9, 2017

Salon Show 2017

A Fine Arts, Photography, Craft & MultiMedia

Fee: \$40

Hanging: Sunday, June 18, 6:45 pm

Reception: June 24, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Removal: July 9, 6 pm

Curators: Linda Lessner & Margo Mead

Margo Mead

41 W 96 St., #13C

New York, NY 10025

212.663.1355

meadart@gmail.com

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.

May 31 - June 11, 2017

Sideshow

A Photography Exhibit

Deadline: May 1, 2017

Fee: \$40

Hanging: Tuesday, May 30, 6:00 pm

Opening Reception: June 3, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Closing Reception: June 11, 2:30 - 5:30pm

Removal: June 11, 6 pm

Curator:

Jean Prytyskacz

PO Box 1575

Valley Stream, NY 11582

jeanlynn5@hotmail.com

*Theme: Open - spectacle photos welcome. Any style of format (color, B&W, analog, digital)

FREE OPPORTUNITY



Helen Rosenthal, City Council Member, 6th District, and Margo Mead in front of a wall of drawings from this class. City Council Member Rosenthal and her office secured the sponsorship for this senior class.

Free Life Drawing for Adults 60+

Fridays from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Live Model (short & long poses)

Art materials are available or bring your own.

Hamilton Senior Center Annex

111 West 71 Street

Just off Columbus Ave

Moderated by Teaching Artist Paul Ferrara

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.

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.

Art Care	244 W 72nd St
Bob's Frame Shop	2713 Broadway
Global Copy	2578 Broadway
Ivy League Stationers	2955 Broadway
Ivy League Stationers	1201 Amsterdam
Quad Right	242 W 36th St
West Side Stationers	2620 Broadway