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Sandy leaves New York powerless

"Dry Bones n Aurora" by New Canaan artist Camille Eskell will be among the work on display in her show "The Ezekiel Project" during the Silvermine Arts Center's fall season. Photo: Contributed / CT



To herald the fall season, the [Silvermine Arts Center of New Canaan](#) will host a diverse blend of new exhibits opening on Sunday, Sept. 23, and running through Saturday, Nov 3.

The exhibitions bring together a wide range of collage, drawing, painting and sculpture. Topics range from the culturally minded imagery of [Camille Eskell](#) and [Mikhail Gubin](#) to the surreal environmentally concerned work of [Joan Wheeler](#), the ceramic faces of [Susan Halls](#) and an historical exhibition.

An opening reception will take place on Sept. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m.

"The Ezekiel Project," is a new series of works by the Silvermine Guild artist. The series reflects the uncertainty, vulnerability and hope of restoring

today's cultural climate. Using the fragmented figure as metaphor and testimonial, these images depict stripped and windswept torsos set adrift in expanses that suggest the cosmos, to underscore the sense of aimlessness and instability.

"Starting with my vision of the finished work, which sparks my creative process, this series continues to explore the psychological themes of withdrawal, transcendence and redemption that inform my work in both 2- and 3-D media," said Eskell.

The series title also alludes to her family name, Ezekiel, before it was Anglicized by an uncle, who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s, to better fit into American society. Close examination reveals hints of lace designs in her artwork, an emblem of a long-held family business.

Eskell has exhibited in solo and group shows throughout the United States and abroad.

Local and national venues have included HP Garcia Gallery and Denise Bibro Gallery in New York City, the Chrysler Museum in Virginia, the William Benton Museum of Art and the Stamford Museum in Connecticut, Grand Rapids Art Museum in Michigan and the Greenville County Museum of Art in South Carolina. International exhibitions have taken place at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Bogota, Columbia, and Mexico City, and Museo de Art Contemporaneo in Caracas, Venezuela. Her works can also be found in public and private collections, including the Chrysler Museum of Art in Virginia, the Housatonic Museum in Connecticut and the Islip Art Museum in New

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York. Eskell has been awarded several grants and honors including Artist Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and residencies with the Weir Farm Visiting Artist Program and the Vermont Studio Center. She has a Master of Fine Art degree from Queens College/CUNY. She lives and works in New Canaan. The works in Russian-born Gubin's new exhibit "Splintery Configurations" are all united by one idea, the use of recycled materials. They are then unified through the use of collage. The idea of a caring attitude toward nature and to the earth's dwindling resources is not a new concept, but one that teaches its importance. What Gubin does in this exhibit is to focus the viewer's attention on this issue and how it is manifested in daily life, from what is worn, eaten, seen and thought. For the creation of his wood sculptures, he uses discarded wood with the intent to gain awareness for the disregard of wood waste construction materials in big cities.

"I take pleasure in the process of creation and enjoy the idea to give new birth to thrown out wooden things through my sculpture," he said.