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Artists against violence unite for peace exhibit

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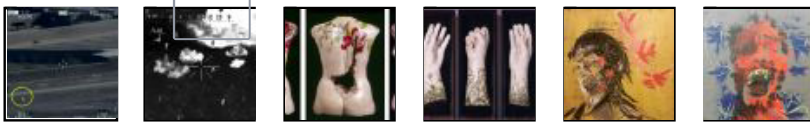
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"Make ART Not WAR II/Works by Artists Against Violence" will be on view at City Lights Gallery in Bridgeport through Sept. 20.

Above are three views of sculptor Camille Eskell's "Tattooed Lady ... Coming Up Roses." Photo: Contributed Photo



This year, the group exhibit includes paintings, sculpture, and projected and audio art forms, Kachmar said. Featured digital artists include: Peter Bochan and his mixed audio collages; filmmaker Lisa Sedenberg presenting a compilation of "Drone Ops" projected on an installation of mosquito netting and camouflage; and the looping video of John Kovalsky. Painting and sculptural works include the art of Camille Eskell, Gerald Saladyga, Janice Mauro and Gustavo Torres.

Public events will include an artists' talk on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. A poetry open mic with the theme of peace and nonviolence is slated on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m., in conjunction with the United Nations' International Day of Peace.

(http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/)

"In an effort to expose City Lights visitors to a calming experience that connects mind, body and spirit," Jonathan Davis of Tawawa Wellness will lead a brief Tai Chi demonstration preceding the poetry reading, Kachmar said.

From New Haven artist Saladyga comes "The Hills Are Alive With The Sound Of ..." , a 60-by-40 inch painting. A frequent participant at City Lights shows, Saladyga began his career in Bridgeport as an Elm Street artist in the 1980s, while commuting to the Arts Students League in New York City. "I consider myself a landscape painter, but not in the traditional sense,"

Saladyga said in his artist's statement. "For me, landscape means everything about the cosmos -- within, on and outside the planet on which we live.

"I look at my work not only as a political, environmental and ecological statement, but also as a complement to and continuation of an already developed and defined genre of landscape painting."

Sculptor Camille Eskell said in her statement that she focuses on body parts.

"For me, the damaged body is a metaphor and a testimonial, exploring duality, transformation and transcendence," Eskell said. "With underlying references to threat, violence, and disharmony woven into the work, I examine themes of vulnerability, confinement, transcendence and rebirth."

For Bridgeport's City Lights Gallery, its current exhibition may be the most significant of the year.

Especially during the unsettled times in which we live.

"Make ART Not WAR II/ Works by Artists Against Violence" features a variety of pieces from many artists throughout the state, according to gallery director Suzanne Kachmar. The show runs through Sunday, Sept. 21, and will include two special events.

"For me ... this theme is the most important show we do," Kachmar said. "I hope to impress upon the community the need to nurture a peaceful soul, and a peaceful way of acting and reacting to people and events."

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More Information

City Lights Gallery, 37 Markle Court, Bridgeport. Free. Through Sunday, Sept. 21. Wednesdays-Fridays 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays to 7 p.m.; Saturdays noon-4 p.m. 203-334-7748, www.citylightsgallery.org.

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