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# iPhone drawings go on display

By June 17, 2013

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Caroline Tavelli-Abar

Reading - Collage series 1998-2005 Mixed media / various papers, gold leaf, inks, charcoal ... Framed 52 1/4 x 38 1/4 inches

RANDOLPH — Rochester's Caroline Tavelli-Abar is displaying a collection of her work, including her original experimentations with an iPhone drawing app at the Black Krim Tavern in Randolph. The show is set to run this month through Sunday, July 28.

Tavelli-Abar, originally from Switzerland, has long been in the art world, both producing a variety of works and working professionally as curator for various private collections.

"I've really enjoyed seeing how collectors see the world. It was an amazing experience working with them all these years," she says.

Tavelli-Abar grew up in a small village in the heart of the Alps, visiting the United States and enjoying dual citizenship since her mother was American. She attended Vermont College after

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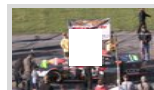
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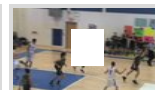
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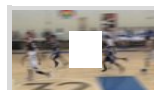
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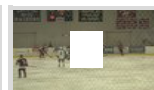
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moving more permanently to the states and earned her bachelor's degree, meeting her mentor, painter Susan Jane Walp along the way.

Traveling with her husband, often staying in National Parks, Tavelli-Abar grew to love this country's landscape. Once she finished her bachelor of arts the couple settled in Boulder, Colo., for a few years. It was then, with Walp's encouragement, that Tavelli-Abar attended the New York Studio School of Drawing Painting and Sculpture. She stayed in New York for six years until she and her husband moved back to the Green Mountain state, but continued to commute between Vermont and New York, while she worked with private collectors and in her studio.

"The balance between working in my studio and being visually stimulated by the works of others was one of the most memorable and enriching times of my life," she says.

Once they bought a house in Rochester, Tavelli-Abar noticed that the occasional poems she would sometimes find in her studio notebook were becoming more prolific.

"Poetry just sort of grew on me," she says.

Her show at the Black Krim reflects this multilayered creativity; she includes a binder of poems that go with the artwork in the show, which she ultimately threaded together based on the pieces' connection to words or writing.

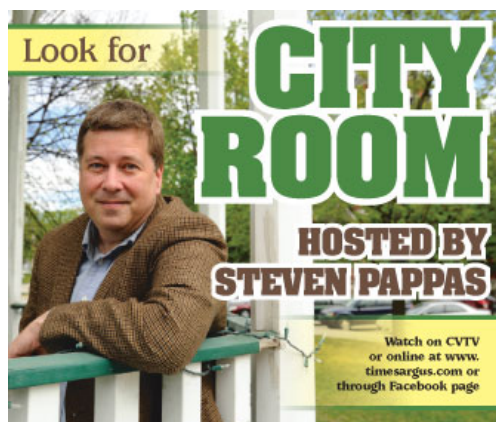
"Writing has been a very large and yet quiet part of my upbringing," she says. "Many letters went back and forth in the mail during my childhood, before email or Skype, and I love the amazing stamps, miniature works of art, that still grace the now more rare and precious letters we continue to exchange."

For her, inspiration runs both ways; from art to writing or like her work titled "Rust," from writing to art.

The inspiration for "Rust," one of her striking folded watercolors, came out of a show in Stowe through the Helen Day Art Center last summer in which the artists came together to write a Renga. A Renga is a collaborative poem based on Haiku structure, everyone knows the title and contributes lines but only sees the lines that were previously written, not until the poem is finished does everyone discover where it ended up.

"It was very nerve wracking to have to create something in the moment, but I enjoyed it tremendously," she says.

For Tavelli-Abar her iPhone drawings, which range from still life to abstract, are born out of a kind of writing. She uses the phone



for most of her emails and web browsing and discovered that using the Brushes app, which required a lot of the same types of motion with her fingers, felt like writing. There are 28 of her iPhone drawings up in the Black Krim Tavern, and though it is their first official showing, she has many exhibitions under her belt. Her work can also be currently seen in Burlington at Dunkiel Saunders on College Street as part of the Art+Soul festival to benefit the ECHO center. Early next year she will be showing at Sterling College and The Art House, both in Craftsbury.

“I have spent many years traveling, and building these bodies of work. I think of them sometimes like languages one learns, or different cultures or dialects, and how fun it is when one gets the subtle nuances of a culture,” she says. “So my work takes on many forms, it travels between line drawing and collage, figurative and abstract, pausing with poetry and finding delight in new technologies and surprises in combining layers of meaning.”

Tavelli-Abar has explored many different mediums in an effort to articulate the creativity that can sometimes be very insistent. Trained as a sculptor, she worked in clay and cement, casting the cement and using pieces to build shapes, a little bit like putting Legos together. Inspired by Walp’s still life paintings, she applies some of her sculpting approaches to designing rotating still life set-ups, sometimes incorporating mirrors.

When sorting through her own artwork and determining what she really wanted to keep and what she could let go, it was the grey area, a pile of the pieces she liked torn out of drawings she was recycling, that ultimately led to her collage work.

In addition to her writing, line and glass drawings, photographs, self-portraits, prints, paintings (and some throwing clay work for herself) round out her means of expression.

“It’s been a really great life. I think this show at the Black Krim Tavern is like a letter one writes home after a long absence. It is full of memory and meaning and wordless places,” she says. “The space is timeless and the show speaks of present and past. It’s a small reflection, a piece of my life, a way of connecting.”

To see some of Tavelli-Abar’s work online and learn more you can visit her website: <http://carolinetavelli-abar.com/>.

The Black Krim Tavern is located on Merchants Row in Randolph and is open 4:30 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The Art+Soul exhibit will be up through June 28, to see the show visitors can make appointments at Dunkiel Saunders by calling

860-1003, ext. 101.

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