

## NEW THIS WEEK

## barre/montpelier

**'WHIR, CLANK, BEEP':** Artworks and assemblages by more than 30 artists that explore simple, complex and fantastic machines. **KENNY HARRIS:** "Envisivarium," a site-specific installation that presents the universality of mythology through illustrative, sculptural and theatrical experiences.

**VERMONT SURFACE DESIGN ASSOCIATION:** "Transformation: Material, Environment, Us," fiber artwork by Sarah Ashe, Cari Clement, Judy Dales, Rosalind Daniels, Jennifer Davey, Elizabeth Fram, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Marya Lowe, Kris McDermet, Jane Quimby, Heather Ritchie, Leslie Roth, Dianne Shullenberger, Fern Strong, Sharon Webster and Betsy Wing. "Transformation" panel discussion: Friday, February 3, noon, with Dianne Shullenberger, Jane Quimby and Heather Ritchie; Leslie Roth facilitates. January 25-March 4. Free. Info, 479-7069. Studio Place Arts in Barre.

**PATTY CORCORAN & MASON YOUNG:** "Shared Spaces," multimedia landscape paintings and abstract wood sculptures, respectively. Reception and artist talk: Friday, February 3, 4-8 p.m. January 31-March 24. Info, 262-6035. T.W. Wood Gallery in Montpelier.

## stowe/smuggs

**ESPERANZA CORTÉS:** Sculptures, paintings and installations by the Colombian-born artist, whose work considers social and historical narratives, colonialism, and the politics of erasure and exclusion. Reception: Thursday, January 26, 5-7 p.m. January 26-April 8. Info, 253-8358. The Current in Stowe.

**KATHY BLACK:** "Expanding Universe, Collapsing Time," paintings that incorporate landscape, still life, maps and writing to explore our changing understanding of the universe. Reception: Wednesday, February 1, 7 p.m. February 1-March 8. Info, 635-2727. Red Mill Gallery, Vermont Studio Center, in Johnson.

## middlebury area

**'MAGENTA':** More than 50 local artists contribute works in this vibrant hue in a variety of mediums. Reception: Friday, January 27, 5-7 p.m. January 27-March 11. Info, 989-7225. Sparrow Art Supply in Middlebury.

**'PORTALS':** Photographs that feature an architectural element — a gate, doorway, window, mirror or tunnel — that frames, isolates or adds a new dimension to the image. Reception: Friday, January 27, 4-7 p.m. January 26-February 24. Info, photos@photoplacegallery.com. PhotoPlace Gallery in Middlebury.

## upper valley

**JOHN R. KILLACKY:** "Flux/Flow/Elegies," an intermedia installation featuring three video pieces: a premier of one inspired by the Fluxus movement of the 1960s; a collaboration with choreographer Eiko Otake speaking to the artists' dead mothers; and an abstract work with tears. Reception: Saturday, February 11, 7-8:30 p.m. February 1-28. Info, 295-6688. Junction Arts & Media in White River Junction.

## ART EVENTS

**ART SOCIAL:** Artists and community members are invited to celebrate new shows: "Whir, Clank, BEEP"; "Envisivarium" by Kenny Harris; "Draw It"; and "Transformation: Material, Environment, Us" by the Vermont Surface Design Association. Performance by Sally Fox Jazz Trio. Masks are required. Studio Place Arts, Barre, Saturday, January 28, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. Info, 479-7069.

## 'Snow Show'

If you're a fan of the Hall Art Foundation who eagerly awaits its opening in the spring, your wait is over — early. This winter, one of the buildings on the Reading campus is open for a timely exhibition titled "Snow Show." Even while rejoicing in the *actual* show of snow this week, flake aficionados can appreciate artistic renderings of the white stuff.

"Snow Show" is a modest exhibition of 11 paintings and one photograph. It's almost a given that any Hall exhibition would feature international artists, and that is the case here: Swede Anna Bjerger; Tokyo-born, Los Angeles-based Yutaka Sone; German Georg Baselitz; Americans Neil Welliver, Lee Friedlander, Dan McCarthy and Neil Jenney; and the rather peripatetic Peter Doig, who was born in Scotland, formerly lived in Canada, currently lives in Trinidad and has traveled extensively. All but Welliver are living artists.

Sone, represented here by three paintings, might be called a conceptual descendant of Vermont's Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley. According to a gallery description, Sone took a homemade microscope and an assistant photographer to California ski resort Mammoth Mountain and methodically studied snowflakes and their patterns. Then, with a chilly palette of whites and blues, he painted variations of his own.

Sone's 18-by-24-inch "Untitled" depicts a very large snowflake and several smaller ones hurtling toward the viewer like asteroids, only prettier. A mountainscape with numerous trails appears in the background, beckoning skiers.

Doig's painting "Alpine Hotel" could not be more different. Gallery text notes that his work frequently incorporates autobiographical details inspired by the many places the artist has lived or visited. This work includes a swath of brutalist architecture — referencing Le Corbusier — a mountainside and a shadowy figure at the bottom. Though painted in a sunny yellow, "the setting may be reminiscent of the

long Canadian winters of Doig's childhood," reads the gallery text. It offers this quote from the artist himself: "I often paint scenes with snow because snow somehow has this effect of drawing you inwards."

Friedlander's black-and-white photograph differs distinctly from his more characteristic urban scenes. "Tetons" features a snow-covered birch grove at close range and in overcast light. The netlike tangle of branches, frozen in a silver gelatin print, can read as an abstraction — or as a view privy only to an off-piste skier. "Friedlander seemingly encourages the audience to step into the frame, push the branches aside and explore what lies beyond," the gallery surmises.

McCarthy's painting "Wasatch" offers a somewhat more comical take on winter. As the gallery text notes, the New York artist's works often feature "childlike, smiley-faced creatures that are slightly unsettling." Here, a presumably human figure stands at the bottom of the picture plane, visible from the

"Untitled" by Yutaka Sone



chest up. He or she is encased in a brown hooded snowsuit and goggles — unless those are very large eyes. In the background, pointy mountains streaked with white ski trails jut into a pink sky.

The Hall Art Foundation presents these and other inventive takes on winter through February 26. "Snow Show" invites coming in from the cold.

 = ONLINE EVENT OR EXHIBIT

 **VISUAL ART IN SEVEN DAYS:**  
ART LISTINGS AND SPOTLIGHTS ARE WRITTEN BY PAMELA POLSTON.  
LISTINGS ARE RESTRICTED TO ART SHOWS IN TRULY PUBLIC PLACES.

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