

Inside Art

Inside Art By Joseph and Barrie Ann George

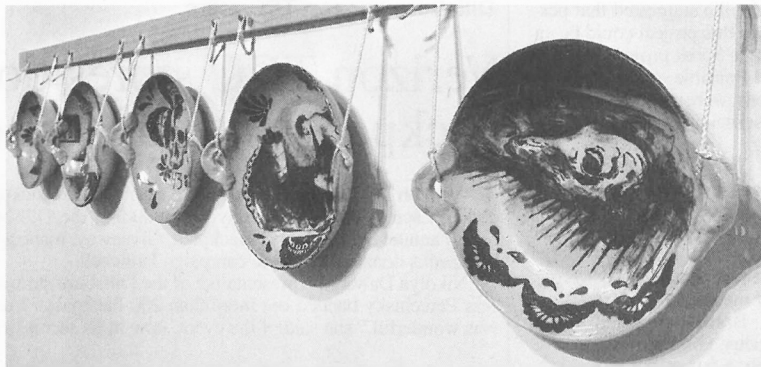
Music Influences the Visual Arts

Music and the visual arts have long been intertwined. Artists Jackson Pollock and Robert Rauschenberg were directly inspired by the music they listened to in their studios, while musicians such as the Rolling Stones and Patti Smith collaborated with iconic visual artists to create new works of art for the covers of their albums.

Music is also recognized as one of the best ways to cultivate joy in our daily lives. The Susquehanna Art Museum was interested in discovering how artists find joy at the intersection of music and art, and so their newest exhibit, "Creating Joy: Art Inspired by Music" was born. It provides unique perspectives on the joyful relationship between music and art, both visually and conceptually by 34 different artists.

Jazz, one of the America's foremost innovations and contributions to the 20th century, is heavily featured as an inspiration. Jazz's bold rhythms and improvisational structure often appeals to visual artists. Susana Aldanondo's "Jazz at the Park" is a colorful abstract painting full of unexpected twists and turns, drawing its spirit and energy from live performances that she has witnessed in parks throughout New York City. The vivid hues are inspired by the diversity of jazz's urban environment.

Another bold experiment in color is Lake Newton's archival pigment print, "Abiotico." The vibrant circular shapes resemble neon lights glowing against the darkness. The pulsating image is inspired by the undulations of the instruments in its inspiration,



Erik Diaz's "Mexico Contemporaneo" is on display at the Susquehanna Art Museum as part of "Creating Joy: Art Inspired by Music" through Sept. 20.

translating the aural into the visual.

Miles Davis was a towering figure in the history of Jazz and his "Kind of Blue" was one of the genre's both most influential and top selling recordings. Here, Miles Davis influenced another Miles. Miles Decoster contributes two generative works, "Kind of Blue" and "Flamenco Tango". Generative art is created by the use of autonomous systems aided by the use of computer code. Decoster translates Davis's music into colors, shapes and patterns through code as a tool as much as one uses a paint brush. Like music, small, delicate parts blend together a cohesive, larger visual structure.

Julian Wang also is inspired the same Davis work. Wang's monoprint "A Little Jazz" also interprets the interplay of instruments and dynamics of improvisation with its dual nature of listening and reacting. The subdued shadowy background interacts with startling splashes of blood red creating a visual dialogue between the contrasts.

"Composition Multi" by Beverlee Lehr is a

piece of ceramic stoneware that is displayed on the wall like a painting. Like a painting, it is composed of various colors and shapes, but like a sculpture, it has texture and depth. Its structure and palette is an homage to Piet Mondrian, whose own paintings were inspired by boogie woogie and jazz music.

Classical pianist and industrial engineer, Greta Boesel used her training in both fields and took a unique approach to creating two pieces in the exhibition. "Creep" and "I Gave My Love a Cherry" were constructed by assigning colors and shapes to the notes of the songs named in the titles. The result yields intersecting circles and shapes that overlay one another in a bold Pop Art style.

Dan Petersen's contributions are also reminiscent of Pop Art. His "Free Flow" and "Jazzy yet Funky" digital designs are contemporary multidimensional creations that call to mind images the psychedelic colors and shapes of 1960's album covers and posters as well as the bold graphics of 1980's Pop artist Kenny Scharf.

People of a certain age will certainly connect with Michael Bricker's "Anatomy of a Mixtape". His mixed media work centers around the classic mixtape with its associated scribbled notes and meaningful playlists. Tapes were created to commemorate life's milestones and Bricker's tribute to the lost art of the mixtape, elevates it to cultural icon status. The unspooled cassette freely floats in the air, giving the piece a unique three dimensional aspect.

Erik Diaz's "Mexico Contemporaneo" was inspired by the music of Los Tigres Del Norte, a Latinx band who record songs about social issues in contemporary Mexico. He has crafted stoneware

platters which depict imagery illustrating those issues. Using the traditional craftsmanship to tell the story of the oppressed and struggling, much in the same way music can, once again draws the parallel between the visual and musical arts.

As an added bonus to the exhibit, visitors are encouraged to bring their personal listening devices to enjoy a special playlist that accompanies the exhibition. It is the perfect complement to create an immersive experience in the gallery.

"Creating Joy" reminds us that the visual and audio can inspire and evoke a spectrum of emotion. While "Joy" may be the focus, the exhibit will also entertain, educate, inform and most importantly remind us of the integral role all of the arts play in our lives.

"Creating Joy: Art Inspired by Music" is on view in the Lehr Gallery at the Susquehanna Art Museum through September 20. The museum is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. The Susquehanna Art Museum is located at 1401 North Third Street, Harrisburg. For more information on visiting the museum visit susquehannaartmuseum.org.

Joseph George holds a degree in history and art history from Dickinson College. He and his wife, Barrie Ann have spent over 30 years together traveling and visiting art galleries locally and throughout the world. They have been writing about the local art scene for seven years. Their tastes range from fine art to street art.

CALENDER

AUG 6 to 8 - Lisburn Fire Company will hold a drive-thru only annual food festival from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

AUG 14 & 15 - Wellsville Fire Company will be holding a drive-thru Food Carnival Aug. 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Aug. 15 from noon to 8 p.m. until sold out.

Please send calendar events listings to news@dillsburgbanner.net

Dillsburg Library Happenings

SummerQuest. SummerQuest comes to an end this month. August 16 is the last day to log minutes for the 800 minute challenge.

Adult Summer Reading. There is still time to earn prizes during this month's Adult Summer Reading program. Aug. 17 is the final day to submit a Bingo sheet. The drawing for the Book Bingo prize winner is Aug. 19.

Go York! This popular hiking program started July 1. There is still plenty of time to enjoy all the outdoor venues. Participants have to be registered for SummerQuest via Beanstack. There are booklets available for pickup.

Online Book Discussion. Join the group for a Zoom discussion of "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver. "Prodigal Summer" is Kingsolver's fifth novel, published in 2000. It weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives amid the mountains and farms of southern Appalachia. Over the course of one humid summer, this novel's intriguing protagonists face disparate predicaments but find connections to one another and to the flora and fauna with which they necessarily share a place. Please RSVP for a Zoom link.

Who eats well, lives well



OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday
11 AM to 9 PM
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Dan Petersen's "Jazzy yet Funky" is on display at the Susquehanna Art Museum.