

Constructing America: The Use and Abuse of New Deal Photography

Historian **Marja Roholl**, a visiting scholar at MIT who teaches at Rotterdam University in the department of History, Media and Culture, will give a talk on **Tuesday, February 25, 7:00PM** in the Brickbottom Gallery.

Having researched a collection of 270,000 photos made between 1935 and 1943 for the Farm Security Administration, Marja will discuss the use of images produced by Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, Gordon Parks, Marjorie Collins and many others. Some recall the hard times of the Depression era, others document the United We Stand spirit of the American Homefront during World War II with scrap rallies and Victory Gardens, and still others resonate uncannily with the post 9-11 rally 'round the flag. Whether viewed as art, historical documentation, or a taste of things to come, the photos are a joy to look at. Come and see for yourself.

February in the Gallery

UNDER THE INFLUENCE: Artists Inspire Artists, will be showing in the Brickbottom Gallery from **February 9 to March 8, 2003. Opening Reception, Sunday, February 9, 3 – 5PM.**

This is a BAA members show and was open to affiliate artists and Brickbottom artists who did not participate in Open Studios. Come to the opening this Sunday!

March in the Gallery

March Exhibition: **proGLYPHic**, Blackstone Press Printmakers (Worcester), **March 13-April 5, 2003. Opening reception: Sunday, March 16, 3-5PM.** In conjunction with the Southern Graphics Print Conference there will be an **artist talk/closing reception on Saturday, April 5.** For more information about the Print Conference, visit www.sgcprintconference2003.org

Yankele: Klezmer Music with a Touch of French Panache

On **Sunday, February 9, 8PM**, Yankele, a group of musicians from Paris, will be arriving in Boston and playing that same evening in the BAA gallery. They are in the US for a short tour. They will be playing in Worcester the next day and NYC after that. The Brickbottom performance will have a **suggested donation of \$10.** The proceeds will be split 50/50 between the BAA and the musicians (a small fraction of what they are being paid for their other concerts.) We hope that this will be a good fundraiser for the

BAA as well as a very enjoyable evening guaranteed to melt your frozen mid-winter spirits! The violinist, Jason Meyer, received a Masters degree from the New England Conservatory of Music and went on to be Concertmaster of the Boston Opera until he returned to Paris. We look forward to hosting Yankele and welcoming them to Brickbottom.

Robots!

They whirled, jumped, flew, landed, rolled, cried, talked, sang a musical round, and could still vacuum the floor when all that was done! Polly Pook showed off iRobots' incredible inventions and all the projects she had worked on as VP of Research. Now she is on to other things as you can read for yourself in this month's "Brick/Peeps" column on page 5. We thank Polly for taking the time to give us such an enjoyable evening of futuristic fascination. Now if I could have just had one of those robots to walk my dogs during that really really cold weather.....

Fundraising!

The BAA has hired Brickbottom Bakery resident Lee McCormick to focus on fundraising until May. Please introduce yourself to her as you see her around. She will be in the office some of the time but will be out in the community much more. We are excited at finding out what the possibilities are for increasing our revenue. She has already produced some results with a donation from Trader Joe's and is working on developing contacts with local businesses and identifying who and how much! If you have any contacts or leads, please let us know. You can email any information to her at tapopen@yahoo.com. Otherwise, leave a note for her at the BAA office and she will get the information there. Watch for the update on progress next month!

Call for Slides/Images

CALL FOR SLIDES/IMAGES of work for possible inclusion in the next Virginia Gunter Curator Fund Exhibition in the Brickbottom Gallery: UNBUILT VISIONS. The exhibition will feature artists' maquettes and/or proposal boards for public projects never built, drastically altered in the building, or destroyed after having been built.

The show will run this May and June 2003.

Since the Brickbottom Gallery is in the Boston area, it would be particularly interesting to see projects unbuilt in this region, but the show may also include projects proposed for other locations.

Please send slides, prints, or other visual representations of available models and/or boards, along with an SASE if you want materials returned, by January 15, 2003.

Leila Daw, 5 Old Pawson Rd., Branford, CT 06405, email Dawleila@aol.com.

Meetings in the Gallery

The Gallery is available for non-BAA sponsored events. If you'd like to hold a private meeting, please contact Debra Olin galleries@brickbottomartists.com or Lois Fiore lfiore@harvard.edu to arrange for chairs, tables, etc. and to make sure there are no date conflicts.

The BAA is Desperately Seeking Storage Space

Can you help us? Please contact Riki @ 617-666-5083 or at riki@studio416.com.

Coffee/Tea in the Lobby

The BAA thanks Trader Joe's for their generous donation of approximately 24 pounds of coffee to the BAA! The coffee table is run by BAA volunteers and all proceeds go to the BAA. Join us in the lobby for different varieties of coffee from Trader Joe's over the next few months!

Thanks also to Owen Strossi for his wonderful additions of muffins this month.

December Affordable Art Show

We forgot to talk about the very successful Affordable Art Show last month so...here it is! Thanks to Pier Gustafson and his hard work in December the Affordable Art Show was very successful and fun. About \$1400 worth of art was sold – about of the sales were participating-artist-to-participating-artist, of the sales were to Brickbottom Residents and the remainder of the sales were to people visiting Brickbottom either specifically for the sale itself or attending another event.

Comments shared were that many thought that it should have lasted longer and perhaps it will next year. That will allow some of us to procrastinate (as always) to whatever the last day may be!

SURVEY FOR ART TEACHERS and PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

Member Jan Arabas, formerly of Brickbottom and now living in Melrose, is a full time professor in the art department of Middlesex Community College. She has extended an invitation to drawing instructors and practicing professional artists to join her in a project funded by the Carnegie Foundation Academy ...”I am interested in hearing what you think are the most important lessons for beginning drawing students, and what are the best ways of teaching these lessons.” Survey letters are in the mailroom, or can be obtained from Jan: arabasj@middlesex.cc.ma.us.

2003 BRICKBOTTOM GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 9-MARCH 8, 2003, *Under the Influence*, Brickbottom Members Exhibition, Opening Reception: Sunday, Feb. 9, 3-5PM.

MARCH 13-APRIL 5, 2003, *proGLYPHic*, Blackstone Press Printmakers, Opening Reception: Sunday, March 16, 3-5PM

APRIL 11-MAY 10, 2003, *Collaboration*, curated by Adria Arch, Opening Reception: Sunday, April 13, 3-5PM.

MAY 18-JUNE 29, 2003, *Unbuilt Visions*, Virginia Gunter Curator Fund Exhibition, curated by Leila Daw, Opening Reception: Sunday, May 18, 6-8PM.

JULY 12-AUGUST 23, 2003, *What is Big?* Brickbottom Members Exhibition, Opening Reception: Sunday, July 13, 6-8PM.

SEPTEMBER 12-OCTOBER 25, 2003, *Home*, Opening Reception: Friday, Sept. 12, 6-8PM.

NOVEMBER 9-24, *Open Studios Directory Exhibition*, Opening Reception: Sunday, November 9, 6-8PM.

Gallery Help

The Brickbottom Gallery is open to the public Thursday through Saturday from 12PM to 5PM. People are needed to buzz visitors into the building. If you are around the building any of those days with a free phone line, this would be a great help to the BAA. If this is something you can help with, please call Debra at 617.625.4962.

Membership

Being an artist is not a requirement for membership. We have many things to offer artists as well as those who are not artists. Forms are available in the mailroom, the BAA office, the Gallery, the Lobby, or at www.brickbottomartists.com. Please mail completed forms to BAA, 1 Fitchburg St. C-111, Somerville, MA 02143 or deliver to the BAA office at C125 (the door next to the community bulletin board.) Your membership and support is important to our livelihood and operations. Thanks!

BAA Board of Directors

Lois Fiore	lfiore@harvard.edu
	617.628.4303 C-204
Stu Fried	sfried@mac.com
Jehanne-Marie Gavarinni, Scribe	617.628.7331 C-202
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Cindy Larson	cl-zarch@rcn.com
	617.718.9707 C-211

Lee Mandell, Treasurer lee_mandell@harvard.edu

	1.	B-153
Riki Moss, President	riki@studio416.com	
	617.666.5083	C-118A

Baguette News Items or Articles

The newsletter for the BAA community will be issued monthly. If you have news or any items that you would like included in next month's issue, please submit to Cindy Larson, cl-zarch@rcn.com, 617.718.9707, C-211 or drop in the mailroom prior to the 25th of each month.

WEB SITE LAUNCH AND IMAGE APPROPRIATION PARTY

Jason Vantomme has designed a lovely new site for the BAA and we want to launch it with a party on **Sunday, March 9th from 1-4PM in the Brickbottom Gallery**. All members are invited. All artist members who cannot come up with a digital image for the website are urged, begged, cajoled, bribed to bring with them a slide or photo of work to be scanned. Please email your image to riki@studio416.com as a .jpg, or else email instructions as to where to find an image of yours that already exists on the web. If you can't do this, don't let that stop you. Bring us a slide or

photo which we will scan in for you. Up until March 9th, slides or photos may be dropped off at the Brickbottom Office (folder on the door). On March 9th, Riki, Jason and other web personnel, appropriated by us for the purpose of appropriating your images, will be in the gallery with scanners and food (bribe.)

Our new site will be colorful, easy and very visual, filled with images from gallery shows and salon events. Images of member's work are important to us and to you: your image can be linked to your own website, or to that of your gallery. Visitors to the site will be able to find you easily, see what you're doing, know where you're exhibiting and when, and find you for Open Studios.

Questions? riki@studio416.com.

Who's Showing Where

Cate Hewitt will be showing selected work through **February 28th** at **Amelia's Kitchen**, Teele Square, 1137 Broadway, Somerville. Hours: M-Th 11-10, Fr-Sa 11-10:30, Sun 5-9 pm.

Bill Kipp will be showing selected work from **February 28th through the end of March** at **Amelia's Kitchen**, Teele Square, 1137 Broadway, Somerville. Hours: M-Th 11-10, Fr-Sa 11-10:30, Sun 5-9 pm.

Debra Olin is having a solo exhibition at the **Starr Gallery**, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, Newton, MA. **"THE STORIES WE HOLD: In Search of Ourselves,"** through March 10.

Debra Olin is included in **"Printmakers from the Northeast and Canada"** at **Francesca Anderson Fine Art** from February 6 – March 15. **Opening reception is Thursday, February 6 from 6 – 8 PM.** Francesca Anderson Fine Art is located at 56 Adams Street in Lexington and the gallery is open Wednesday-Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Thursdays until 8 PM, and Sundays 2-5 PM. Further information can be obtained by calling the gallery at 781-862-0660 or from their web site at www.portraitsnorth.com.

Irene Valincius is part of the **"Painting in Boston: 1950-2000"** show at the **DeCordova Museum** through February 23, 2003. Gallery admission is \$6. The exhibition is the first major, comprehensive study of the art of painting as practiced in Boston and environs during the second half of the twentieth century. DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, 51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln, MA, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11AM to 5PM and on selected Monday holidays. Further information can be obtained by calling 781.259.8355 or visiting their web site at www.decordova.org.

"Who's Showing Where" is a column that runs monthly for members to share where they are showing. Please submit your information to Cindy Larson, clzarch@rcn.com, C211, 617.718.9707, or drop in the mailroom prior to the 25th of each month so that you can be included on the list.

SOMERVILLE OPEN STUDIOS Sat-Sun May 3-4 12PM – 5PM. Registration Deadline 2/15/03.

Somerville artists are invited to join SOS as individuals. Although the BAA is not sponsoring this event, we will do everything possible to welcome Somerville Open Studios to the building if there are SOS artists that want to show in our lobbies again or resident artists that are participating. Please contact SOS directly for information. Registration forms have been mailed to some of you. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS A FIRM FEBRUARY 15TH** You may also find registration forms in the following ways:

- 1: Some are available in the Brickbottom mailroom.
- 2: Get them on line at:

<http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/sos/index.html>,

- 3: By Mail at the following address:

Somerville Open Studios

PO Box 442115

Somerville, MA 02144

- 4: Phone 1-888-460-0722

- 5: E-mail: sos_registration@yahoo.com

Opportunities to Show

February 2003 Brick/Peeps Polly Pook

Confessions of a low-order, reactive being

Developers of artificially intelligent systems fall into one of two camps. Those that assume their system has all the time in the world to contemplate, reason, compare, and finally, *precisely*, act -- and those that figure its best to just scramble along. I sit soundly in the latter camp. The robots I design are cockroaches in the evolutionary scale, in contrast to the long-thinking chess player, Deep Blue. I run my own life pretty much on the same principle. The art I make is fast and messy. So is the food. Even as a pedestrian I scramble: I nearly knocked over the projector screen *twice* at the BAA talk that I gave last month on robots. A friend tells me my problem is that I model myself as a point and then plan my path accordingly. He's right that I forget about elbows and hips, but he's also wrong; I don't plan, I react.

The advantage to being a reactive being, whether you are animal or robot, is that the world can be a wonderfully dynamic place. You just bounce off and keep going.

Intellectually, I mostly bounce between art and science. At Brown University, I took two degrees, one in Math and one in Fine Art, running down the hill to RISD for art classes with summers at Skowhegan and the Art Institute of Chicago. I ran away for a year to Santa Fe - chosen because that's where the car broke down. I worked at the Museum of Folk Art, sculpting plaster manikins for dioramas (yes, that is a job!).

The desert and motorcycles out of my system, I moved to New York, ostensibly as an artist. After selling a very few paintings and doing a nepotistic stint as a scene painter at Juilliard (my sister ran the technical theater shop) I bounced back to science, joining Rockefeller University as a microbiology research assistant, doing stem cell research on rat testes (I had taken a lot of biology classes at Brown). A year later I met a composer, a dancer, and a painter at a party and we decided to - why not? - form a software company (this was 1982, the year of such dreams). We took over the composer's loft in SoHo, built a few desks and set about developing what was essentially the first Windows program. We had a great time, learning how to moon-dance during lunch breaks and putting on performances at PS 122 at night. Unfortunately the software, while fabulous, was far ahead of its time.

We sold the company and I moved on to a few other software gigs, including designing an architectural CAD system. Having never taken a computer programming class, I thought it about time that I formally learn something about what I'd been doing. In a rare moment of foresight and planning, I went off to get a Ph.D. in Computer Science. My field was A.I. and my main

interest became thinking about how animals and robots get around in the world. A highlight during this time was the chance to work *very* briefly with the famous neurologist Oliver Sacks thinking about how robot systems could aid people with brain damage.

Degree in hand, I went to Japan as a visiting scientist, did a post-doc at the MIT AI Lab (the "Intelligent Room" project), and then joined iRobot Corp. to lead the research group in developing all sorts of robots, often inspired by animals such as crabs, lizards, and ants. Our robots are designed to clear minefields, search and rescue, clean your house, help the elderly, embody the internet, and assist the military in reconnaissance missions.

I'm itching now to bounce off something new and so I'm taking a, probably permanent, sabbatical from my job. I love to travel and since moving to Brickbottom 5 _ years ago, I've roamed around western China, Tibet, West Africa, Cuba, and Greece. I intend to become more involved in Brickbottom doings and would love to meet more of my neighbors (I've been buried in my work since I've moved here, unfortunately). I live in C222, backing onto the railroad yards. I share it with two reactive cats, Moxie and Sidney, who view the railroad as their personal hunting grounds. Moxie isn't much of a huntress, in fact, so she tries to pass off road-kill as a freshly caught gift. Which makes me think that perhaps she belongs in that other camp of beings - the clever thinkers and planners.

Brick/Peeps Column

Share your story with others in the Brick/Peeps Column. It's time for you to write your story for the Baguette and for your neighbors! Bring or email your writings or résumés, along with a photo (digital if you have it), to either Svetlana Rockwell (C214) svetrock@ix.netcom.com or Cindy Larson (C211) clzarch@rcn.com. We will happily assist with the writing if you are not comfortable putting it together.

Brickbottom Building Manager's Corner
Bob Martel brickbottommgr@earthlink.net

Repairs and preventive maintenance will be performed on the garage door beginning at 9:30AM on Wednesday, 2.5.03. Residents who park in the garage will be unable to exit or enter the garage while work proceeds. Work will be completed by 2:30PM. Please remove your vehicle from the garage prior to 9:30AM. You will not be able to remove your car from the garage once work begins. Exceptions will not be made.

Preventive maintenance inspections of units are proceeding at a rate of approximately one loft per week. At this rate each loft will be inspected once every three years. Inspections are now proceeding on the fourth floor of the Cannery.

Events for February

Sunday	February 9th	3-5PM	Gallery Opening for "Under the Influence", Brickbottom Gallery, One Fitchburg Street, Somerville, MA.
Mon-Sun	February 9th – March 8th		"Under the Influence", current exhibition, Brickbottom Brickbottom Artists Building, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville.
Sunday	February 9th	8PM	Yankele, Klezmer music with a touch of French panache, Brickbottom Artists Building, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville, MA.
Thursday	February 13th	7:30PM	BAA Board of Directors Meeting, BAA gallery.
Friday	February 14th	All Day	???? Happy Valentines Day! ????
Tuesday	February 25th	7:00 pm	"Constructing America: The Use and Abuse of New Deal Photography", talk by Marja Rohol. Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville, MA, 617.776.3410.

Events for March/April

Sunday	February 9th	3-5PM	Gallery Opening for "proGLYPHic", Brickbottom Artists Building, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville, MA.
Mon-Sun	March 13th – April 5th		"proGLYPHic", Blackstone Press Printmakers (Worcester), current exhibition, Brickbottom Gallery, Brickbottom Artists Building, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville.
Thursday	March 13th	7:30PM	BAA Board of Directors Meeting, BAA gallery.
Saturday	April 5th		"proGLYPHic", artist talk/closing reception for current gallery show. Brickbottom Gallery.
Tuesday	April 15th		"Mystery Writers Night", readings by five mystery writers, Brickbottom Gallery.

Brickbottom Artists Association, 1 Fitchburg Street C-111 (gallery) or C125 (office), Somerville, MA 02143

Tel:617.776.3410

e:info@brickbottomartists.com

www.brickbottomartists.com

Support/Join/Help the BAA: please print very clearly.

Name: _____

Gallery: _____

Check one:

Membership: \$25 _____

Angel: \$50 - \$99 _____

Volunteer:

Events:

Street Address: _____
Studios: _____

Fundraising: _____
City/State: _____

Membership: _____

Phone: _____

Other: _____

Email: _____

specify your
Medium(for artists): _____
interests)

Donor: \$100 - \$499 _____

Patron: \$500 - \$999 _____

Benefactor: \$1000 + _____

Check any that apply:

I am an artist _____

I live and/or have my

studio in Brickbottom _____

Open

(Please

Mail checks to the address above.

The BAA is a nonprofit arts organization.