
Naudain Street Artists' Colony Open Studio Tour

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Artists' studios west of Broad Street will be open to visitors on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, starting at noon, as part of the annual fall Philadelphia Open Studio Tour (POST) sponsored by the Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CFEVA). Artists' studios located in Center City West are listed at www.philaopenstudios.org/post/neighborhood/center-city-west.

Naudain Street, the artists' colony of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood,

contains at least eight artists' studios clustered in the blocks between 21st Street and 25th Street. Naudain Street artists that will be participating in the 2013 Philadelphia Open Studio Tour are Bhavisha H. Patel, Karen Stabenow, Ed Bronstein, Lauren Sweeney, Burnell Yow! and Betsy Alexander. Raymond Ercoli and Liz Goldberg, a collaborative team, have participated in the Philadelphia Open Studio Tour in the past.

Bhavisha H. Patel's impressionist oil paintings include many varied scenes of Rittenhouse Square, as well as recent landscapes of Kenya, where she was born. Educated in England, Patel became interested in photography, oil painting, and water colors. Patel believes that art is a universal form of expression, and her motto is "Pour your soul into a canvas." She offers painting parties and lessons to people of all ages at her home studio. You can see

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her work by appointment at Twenty-Two Gallery, 236 S. 22nd Street, and on her website, Art and The Ageless Gardens: www.artandtheagelessgardens.com.

Karen Stabenow, environmental planning consultant for the U.S. Green Building Council, has been painting all her life. Stabenow was inspired by the artist Sterling Strauser, a modernist painter who lived in East Stroudsburg where she grew up. Stabenow's current work includes her series "The World is Ours," paintings based on global maps. She explains: "By stretching and compressing land mass features that are familiar, one is confronted with new insights and emotions about our world." A series called "Seascapes" is about the interface of land and sea and its "powerful influence on settlement patterns and emotional sense of place."

Ed Bronstein, a former architect, is best known for his "en plein air" modern impressionist oil paintings of urban scenes, particularly in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, as well as industrial relics and vehicles, landscapes, still life, and portraits. Bronstein began painting in 1989 and attended courses at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and Fleisher Art Memorial. In recent shows, Bronstein donated half the proceeds from sales to Greenfield School's art program and Rebuilding Together Philadelphia. His paintings in gouache, oil, and pastel will be on exhibit in September at the Cosmopolitan Club. www.edbronstein.com.

Burnell Yow! and **Betsy Alexander** at Raven's Wing Studio are best known for their colorful and unusual collages and assemblages made from found objects. Yow! paints, sculpts, photographs, and composes digital art. Alexander paints, knits, photographs, makes jewelry and will be showing paintings of Alaskan sunsets. www.ravenswingstudio.com.

Lauren Sweeney, inspired by a lifetime of scientific observation during her career as a scientific illustrator and biologist, paints serene watercolor portraits of animals, vegetables, and humans as well as domestic interiors, streetscapes, and seascapes. She holds a PhD in biology and has studied at the University of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Johns Hopkins University. Sweeney has done



Bhavisha H. Patel.



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Karen Sabenow.

commissioned works for individuals and institutions including the University of Pennsylvania. www.inliquid.org/complete-artist-list/sweeney-lauren.

Raymond Ercoli and **Liz Goldberg** work independently and collaborate on paintings, animation, and graphics. Recently, their Op Art film, *Divomenco Pop*, a hand-drawn animation based on the Argentinian Tango, was chosen for the MiniArtVideo Fest in Budapest and was shown at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival. Ercoli is a fashion designer and marketing instructor at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. He works in oil, mixed

media, print, and watercolor. www.raymondercoli.blogspot.com.

Liz Goldberg works primarily on paper. Puppets inspire much of her *Diva* work because of their free-form, color, and gestures: "mischievous, egotistical, erotic, magical exaggerations of human behavior." She teaches fashion drawing at Drexel University and drawing for fashion and architecture at Philadelphia University. Her animated films, all hand-drawn and painted, received four international awards. She holds a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute and a BFA with honors from York University. www.lizgoldberg.com.

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