

# New Walls for Hallwalls

**Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center** opens the doors to its new home at 341 Delaware Avenue (in Ani's remodeled "Church") this Saturday with the opening of an exhibition of works by **Suzy Lake**. Lake is a contemporary of Cindy Sherman; she took part in Hallwalls' early days, and has made full use of performance art and photography throughout her long career in order to explore political issues through a personal investigation. Lake emigrated to Canada as a result of the political strife in the United States during the Vietnam War era. This show will present her current work mingled with works from throughout her career. The exhibit runs January 14 to February 18.

Saturday evening (January 14) will begin with the **Annual Hallwalls Members' Meeting** at 6:30, open to members old and new. At 7:30 Suzy Lake will speak about her work, and the opening reception runs 8 to 11 pm. The **Annual Members Exhibition**, which normally takes place in January has been moved to the summer months to take advantage of the new space's air conditioned facilities.

The first music presentation in the new space will be the **Arthur Doyle Electro-Acoustic Ensemble** on Friday, January 20 at 8pm (\$10 general, \$8 members, students and seniors). Doyle, the "underground free music icon" leads on voice, tenor sax and flute, joined by a four-man band. **The Diane Bonder Film Retrospective** will open Hallwalls' media arts program in the new cinema on Saturday, January 21, at 8 pm (\$7 general, \$5 members, and \$4 students and seniors). Bonder is known for her low-tech approach to introspective, experimental film and video. **Resolutions '06** on Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28th, features the film, video, installation and Web-based work of local and international artists, in response to a call for works. This festival is presented with **Squeaky Wheel** and is lots of fun.

## Intimate Textures

**Nancy Belfer** and **Sylvia Rosen** are currently showing new work in the **Daemen College Fanette Goldman/Carolyn Greenfield Gallery**. Belfer, formerly Chair of the Department of Design Arts at Buffalo State College, has moved into mixed media collage works recently that utilize bits and pieces of the many woven materials she created while on the faculty. Rosen is not only a ceramic artist, but also a patron of the arts, and is a long supporter of exhibitions of craft art at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center. She attended the Design Arts program at Buffalo State. Rosen is showing three still-life-like collections of porcelain objects with a celadon glaze with Belfer's still-life-sized mixed media works.

Nancy Belfer's small mixed media works (some no more than nine inches across) display her wonderful

skill; they transform into giant, torqued landscapes when you walk up to them, as in "Transient Landscape II." Magazine clippings, remnants of fabric and threads and acrylic paint are thoroughly worked all over, and brushed to make image and paint into something touchable (though it is behind glass). Cardboard painted gold is the backdrop for "Near the Ledge." The piece reaches back into a brighter space at its middle. Like peering out a distant window, this opening is surrounded with jewels and tidbits that weave around the light source like a nest.

"Transient Landscape III" has a very distinct fore- and background with curved objects looking like they are three-dimensional coming off a jewelry box-like form. "Near the Wall" looks like it could be a representation of a ledge or the top of a fireplace decorated or littered with personal belongings. They touch the edge of a mirror or picture that rests on the ledge, creating an intimate feeling of a memoir space. "Quilt Fields - November" is gorgeous with the complex bits of fabric woven throughout the surface, making a second coming in their artistic lives and transforming into a rich web of fanciful threads.

The traditional celadon glaze Sylvia Rosen uses creates areas of green when it gathers in impressions made on the surface of the porcelain. A sophisticated grouping of vases, pots, teapots and a plate is at the center of the Daemen College Gallery. The plate really stands out for the concentric circles of rectangles pressed into the surface that create a graphic quality with the varying thicknesses and darknesses of the green glaze, reaching a black in some instances. A vase uses a similar process, where the rectangles create a surface entirely covered with shallow marks that resemble the scales of a fish.

This exhibition of two of Buffalo's prominent women in the arts remains on view through January 17.

—cynnie gaasch

## With Spiritual Tones

**The Jewish Community Centers** in Buffalo and Getzville are currently showing works by **Catherine Parker** (speaking of prominent women artists). Many of the works Parker is showing here come from her body of work that explores spirituality, religion, and works by other contemporary and Modern artists, writers and musicians who have also explored such themes. "Threatened by Resurrection" shows energy lifting up through the center of the piece in white and gold colors, surrounded by blues. A looming slope in gray comes down the right side of the painting.

"Exodus" is a gorgeous, loose painting based around a central glowing red/ orange form. "The Desert" shows



Suzy Lake's "Peonies and the Lido #3," 2001, color gelatin prints (1 of 3), at Hallwalls beginning this Saturday.

throng of people traveling across a barren land. The color in this painting is unusual for Parker, in grays and tans more than the colorful palette she usually enjoys. This makes the painting stand out in the crowd, the mass of travelers becomes that much more serious. "The Journey" has a swooping mass of energy creating a whirlwind in purples and blues. There is a subtle trail of orange with pebble forms drawn in that moves throughout the rectangle. You wonder what path it is that the artist is describing here.

These themes provide the artist with subjects on which to unleash her talented hand and eye. Her paintings always provide an endless source for investigation, with moments to be found after many many viewings. Parker's work will be on view through January 29.

—cynnie gaasch

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In 2006, I firmly resolve to go out to eat every chance I get; consume large quantities of all shapes and sizes of great homemade pasta served in sauces of every color and taste; sup deep on veal, steaks, fowl, and seafood prepared to perfection; drink case after case of delicious red and white wine; always order dessert, espresso, then an aperitif; laugh long; make new friends; tip large and leave smiling. **italian.**

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