

Main Line Art Center: Main Line Collects Philadelphia Press Coverage (portion)



Main Line Art Center showcases native Philly talent Mainly Art for Main Line Ticket

By Marie Fowler

I am passionate about Philadelphia art" proclaims Mary Ann Dutt Justice, curator of Main Line Collects Philadelphia, on view at the Main Line Art Center through June 10. This multi-media exhibition, featuring post-1950 works by 42 premier Philadelphia artists, represents art drawn from 19 private collections on the Main Line. Dutt Justice is quick to praise the generosity of these lenders, who have been gracious enough to share their art with the public.

"So many people do not appreciate what we have in Philadelphia" continues Dutt Justice, noting that some collectors have in the past chosen to bypass the City of Brotherly Love and go directly to New York galleries.

"I think we have increasing opportunities for artists now" the curator notes. "We have great loft space, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts are paying attention to Philadelphia artists, as are local galleries."

She cites the recent move of renowned artist Donald Lipski from New York to Philadelphia, because he found our city "more hospitable."

This show dazzles. Those who love sculpture will enjoy Henry Mitchell's bronze Running Cheetah and might be familiar with the sculptor's works from the zoo (Impala Fountain), the Phillips Memorial Fountain at PMA, as well as the fountain at the Betsy Ross House, among others.

The ever-popular Leo Sewell is represented by a mixed media Cat. Sewell, viewers might remember, is re-creating a portion of the Statue of Liberty from toys for the Please Touch Museum's new venue in Memorial Hall. As always, Sewell's assemblages are a treasure hunt in themselves, and quick eyes will spy a vintage necklace used for the feline's tail, as well as an old McGovern-Shriver campaign button.

Italian-born Harry Bertoia's Untitled, a sort of steel "bouquet" will tempt children of every age, as well as their elders, to touch. (The Seraphin Gallery, 1108 Pine St. in Philadelphia, will show 40 years of Bertoia's drawings in an exhibition running May 30 through July 31.)

Philadelphia legend Sam Maitin is represented by Still Life on a Table. Warren Rohrer, subject of a retrospective at the Art Museum a few years ago, displays an oil, July, Smyrna.

There are works by Philadelphia favorites Bill Scott, Edna Andrade, Bo Bartlett, Moe Brooker, Thomas Chimes and Sidney Goodman, among others.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Center will also be open for First Friday festivities on June 6 from 6 until 9 p.m. Located at 746 Panmure Road in Haverford, the Main Line Art Center may be reached by telephone at 610-525-0272 or on the Web at www.mainlineart.org.