

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

"Out Of The Park"

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Monmouth Museum Brings Asbury Park to Lincroft This Summer

With Out of the Park: An Exhibition Featuring Work by Asbury Park Gallerists

Asbury Park is known for its art scene, but how much do you really know about the founders, directors, and curators behind the scenes of the galleries? In addition to managing their exhibitions and the everyday operations of running their galleries, they are accomplished, exhibited artists themselves. Asbury Park is coming to the Monmouth Museum to give you a peek inside the minds of this multidisciplinary group who helped define the Cultural Renaissance of Asbury Park. The exhibition celebrates their artistry and entrepreneurship, and provides the public with an opportunity to experience their work together for the first time.

Out Of The Park will feature work by Brittany James and Patrick Schiavino of art629 Gallery, Jill Ricci and Porkchop of Parlor Gallery, and Tom and Lois White of Whitepoint Gallery. These artists, along with curation by Jenn Hampton of Parlor Gallery and the Wooden Walls Project, will be showcasing work in a variety of media.

To compliment their exhibit and to keep the AP theme in motion, Porkchop, Bradley Hoffer, and Jason Stumpf's recent Parlor Gallery exhibit, *The Cardboard Show* will be re-imagined and reconstructed in the Nilson Gallery. Erika Schaefer, Executive Director of the Monmouth Museum notes, "While AP is the place to be this summer, we hope to bring a slice of that to Lincroft as well for a cross pollination of art, audience, and creativity." She continues, "As the Museum celebrates its 60th anniversary, the next chapter lies within bringing art to communities, not just communities to the Museum itself. This collaboration is a great step toward the Museum's vision to grow."

The opening reception is free and open to the public, offering an opportunity to meet the gallerists and view the exhibit. The exhibit runs from Sunday June 25th through September 3rd. Museum admission is \$12 per person, with discounts for seniors and veterans. Admission is free for active military, Brookdale CC students, and children under two years of age. Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Sundays, 10am to 4pm. For more info, visit www.MonmouthMuseum.org.

The Monmouth Museum is located at 765 Newman Springs Road in Lincroft, NJ (on the Brookdale Community College campus. Parking lot #1).

ABOUT art629 GALLERY:

art629 Gallery was founded by artist Patrick Schiavino in 2009. The gallery is on Cookman Avenue, in the heart of downtown Asbury Park, and has been host of many shows including painting, photography, sculpture, theater, spoken word, and musical events like the Asbury Underground. art629 is dedicated to the exhibition of fine and contemporary art with the objective of giving all artists a voice while bringing new ideas to the region. Brittany James joined the gallery in 2015, curating themed group exhibitions for local artists, and bringing figure drawing and painting classes to art629. <https://www.art629.com/>

PATRICK SCHIAVINO is a self-taught artist and graduate of Montclair State College where he studied Industrial Arts and Design. After graduation, Patrick spent time in Soho, NYC, assisting in the design and buildout of several loft conversions. This is where he developed his interest in fine art. Also around this time, he was commissioned to design and build a jazz club in Montclair called Katie Gray's, where he stayed on as the talent buyer and promoter for the venue. Through his interest in the music business, he went on to become the talent buyer for the famous Club Bene' in Sayreville, NJ and then the booking agent for the "Uncle Floyd Show".

Patrick started painting in the mid-1980's. He participated in well over 30 exhibitions in the years from 1992 through 2000. In 1994 he was selected by the Federal Government to have two of his paintings displayed at the American Embassy in Luxembourg. In 1996 he was invited by the Center of Emerging Arts, Miami, to have five of his paintings tour the United States. The following year, he did a three month solo exhibition at the State House Rotunda in Trenton. In 1998, he received a Dodge Foundation Grant to participate in the Artist in Residency Program at the prestigious Vermont School. That same year Patrick was invited by music icon Sting, and tennis great John McEnroe, to participate in a fundraising exhibition at the John McEnroe Gallery in Soho, to benefit the Rain Forest foundation.



"My Corona" by Patrick Schiavino
Oil on Canvas
36" x 48"

In 2000, Patrick retired from the music business to become a full-time artist and purchased a building on Cookman Avenue in downtown Asbury Park, which serves as his home and studio, and where he has operated art629 Gallery to this day. He also founded The Asbury Underground Art and Music Crawl in 2014, which brings thousands of art and music fans to the downtown visiting as many as 32 galleries and shops hosting a full day of art, music, spoken word, dance and comedy.

<https://www.patrickschiavino.com/> <https://www.asburyunderground.com/>

BRITTANY JAMES is a Jersey shore native who began painting at Riverview Art School in Island Heights. She graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA degree concentrated in oil painting in 2009. Her oil paintings are of surreal images, depicting women's rights and the relationships between women in nature and society.

One of Brittany's more recent series of paintings, "Women's Work" focuses on gender stereotypes, inequality, objectification and oppression of women. Her paintings are often inspired by dreams, poetry, and words. Brittany's latest body of work was inspired by Glennon Doyle's book *Untamed*, a memoir that seeks to liberate women from the societal expectations that bind them. Brittany was also inspired by author Jeanette Winterson's writings about the balance between the wild and the tame. She often paints bright, whimsical portraits of women surrounded by flowers, but with underlying themes of darkness. She likes to include contrasting imagery that is a mix of delicacy and harshness. She sometimes creates a break in the reality of the painting by using abstract drips of turpentine in the background to give the image a dreamlike quality.



"Be Still" by Brittany James
Oil on Canvas
36" x 48"

In addition to painting, Brittany teaches art classes for children and teens at Inspired Minds Fine Art School in Lincroft. She also teaches painting and life drawing classes for adults at art629 Gallery in Asbury Park and curates local art exhibitions. She has painted live on stage at the State Theater in New Brunswick, The Vogel in Red Bank, the Paramount Theater in Asbury Park, and the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank. She also creates live paintings for weddings and events. She has been a muralist and featured artist for the Asbury Underground Art & Music Crawl and the Asbury Park City Mural Project, and has shown her work in several galleries in the New York tri-state area. <https://brittanyjamesart.com/>

ABOUT PARLOR GALLERY:

Parlor Gallery opened in 2009 on Cookman Ave in downtown Asbury Park. The gallery, run by Jenn Hampton, Jill Ricci, and Porkchop, presents a unique vision in New Jersey's art community and features innovative work by some of the best emerging and established artists. Parlor Gallery curates exhibits the public may not ordinarily have access to outside of a large urban environment. In the last few years, Parlor has begun to curate other venues, pop-up exhibits and participate in art fairs such as SCOPE Miami and NYC. Parlor Gallery has also collaborated with Madison Marquette to create the Wooden Walls Public Art Project for the Asbury Park Boardwalk. <https://www.parlor-gallery.com/>

JILL RICCI, co-owner and director of Parlor Gallery, was born in Providence, Rhode Island and has been constantly moving and creating art since the age of seventeen. Ricci's art is inspired by what she refers to as "our modern hieroglyphics", old walls layered with papers, graffiti and text. She tries to re-create this beauty in her work. The layers of time and decay are what interest her most. Found images and objects function as signifiers of both individual and collective experience. By incorporating materials that are linked to the realities of daily life, she strives to establish an immediate identification between the viewer and the work of art. She is exploring the place between "high art" and popular culture, text and image, figuration and abstraction, past and present, and two and three-dimensional space. By combining elements of advertising ephemera, hand-stenciled papers, global motifs, design and abstraction, she finds a way to create work that feels both ancient and modern. In her current body of work, Ricci aims to evoke the walls and architecture of exotic places, old subway walls with layers of posters, ads, graffiti and the stratum of paint with a hint of Malibu Barbie all simultaneously existing on one canvas. Ricci studied art formally at Smith College and then studied art therapy at the Art Institute of Chicago. In Chicago, she created the company Surface Art Design, which combined commissioned art, murals, decorative painting and interior design. She then went on to curate shows at her storefront space Gallery 1500. In 2004, Ricci moved back to the East Coast, became a full time artist, and opened Parlor Gallery in 2009 with Jenn Hampton.

<https://www.jillricci.com/>



“The Pride of Athena”
by Jill Ricci
mixed media on wood
panel 37”x 29” x 3”

PORKCHOP (aka Michael LaVallee) is a multi-disciplinary artist from New Jersey. He has an MFA in Sculpture from VCU and a BFA in Fine Arts from University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Porkchop has established a great presence through his magnificently scaled murals, including the extensively documented scenes he composed along the Asbury Park Boardwalk in conversation with the sea. Narrative is a prevalent theme in his work. Porkchop’s mixed-media paintings and sculptures combine vintage images with darker scenarios and twisted iconography. He creates these situations by combining paint, illustration, and text. He has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe and is published in “The Greatest Erotic Art of Today” Volume 2, “Eye Candy” and “I Want your Skull”. Most recently, Porkchop’s sculptures have been showcased at Erarta Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Through appropriating imagery from multiple cultures and mythologies and with the use of up-cycled objects; the artist creates a new, yet familiar version of religious and mythological iconography and aesthetics. In his most recent work, Porkchop strips his normally vivid palette, employing intentionally ritualistic and graphic monochromatic designs and symbols accented with Gold. Influenced by ancient block printing techniques, history and literature, the artist sources out, manipulates, and casts familiar objects. He then painstakingly recreates their surfaces giving them a new existence into a dark and curious storyline. His choice of black & white emphasizes the narrative in the works, which becomes difficult to ignore.

Porkchop’s site-specific installations present the viewer with visions of futuristic antiquities, where the artist creates sculptural versions of esoteric idolatry reminiscent of past civilizations, set in an altar-like presentation. Over the past 10 years, Porkchop has been evolving this concept through the creation of his sculptures. as well as the forming of the design to accompany them. <https://www.artofporkchop.com/>



"Vidya" by
Porkchop
Fiberglass, resin, wood,
acrylic, gold leaf
40 x19 x 90"

ABOUT WHITEPOINT GALLERY:

Founded as Exhibit No.9 in 2013 by Tom & Lois White, Whitepoint Gallery, located on Cookman Ave in downtown Asbury Park, works with local, national and international emerging and mid-career artists. Gallery events include exhibitions, seminars, artist talks and a place where artists and patrons can meet and be connected to the art world. The gallery specializes in contemporary coastal and urban art, and is a studio for exceptional fine art framing <https://whitepointgallery.com/>

TOM WHITE is co-founder of Whitepoint Gallery along with his wife, Lois. For Tom, contemporary photography and new media is an endless visual space that is wide open to interpretation. His process is a hybrid of the disciplines of photography, painting, design, science, technology, and printmaking in both analog and digital media.

"It is important to me to challenge the traditional understandings of photography and fine art and remove stereotypical distinctions of what a photograph or painting is and allow the viewer to focus on the image without feeling the need to define the medium." At the foundation of Tom's work is the curiosity, exploration and juxtaposition of things yet to be revealed in the world around us, man made or natural. Beneath the surface, many things that we encounter regularly turn out to be far more glorious than we had time to imagine. "I just give that view from my mind's eye." <https://www.tomloiswhite.com/tom>



“Two Sides To Every Story #2”
by Tom White
Installation of two, 48”x112”
Acrylic painting, microphotography
and digital imaging

LOIS WHITE is a photographic artist who draws upon her textile and knitwear design background to weave ideas, concepts and experiences with her camera. For Lois, the camera is the conduit between the real and the emotional. Her abstract work involves single frame in-camera long exposures with expressions that results in otherworldly impressions like ethereal paintings and drawings. Her more formal work captures the feeling and lighting of the moment to convey an emotional connection to the subject.

<https://www.tomloiswhite.com/lois>



“Underlight Studies” by Lois White
Installation of 8, 52”x86” Photographs
Archival pigment print on
360gsm cold press Arches,
hardwood frames, museum glass