



2006

ART SOAR

An Art show and event of
sociopolitical expressions
for peace and justice:
poetry, music, perfor-
mances, movies, lectures
and debates at

The Mockbee
2260 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
April 21 - May 7, 2006

SOS ART annual art show and event of sociopolitical expressions for peace and justice was held again and for the fourth consecutive year at the Mockbee, downtown Cincinnati, from April 21 to May 7, 2006.

In addition to the 100 visual artists, 22 poets, 15 musicians and musical groups, and many performers, the art show included again this year, art works by school children, all grades, from local public and private schools and after-school programs. The childrens' added voices broadened the dialogue and in many instances pointed to the immediacy and poignancy of the problems our society faces. Through the children, schools and parents became part of SOS ART.

As in previous years, the issues addressed by artists were quite broad covering all aspects of peace and social justice; most were statements about our society, our city, our world, and how to make them better.



Again in 2006, SOS ART achieved its goals not only by giving artists a venue to express themselves and be heard, but also by providing them and the viewers an opportunity to exchange, challenge, educate, strengthen their own voices, and break their isolation by building a community of sharing and trusting individuals. The SOS ART event included presentations, panel discussions, movies, performances, dances, poetry readings, etc., on topics pertaining to peace and justice, on what hinders them, and also on what promotes them. The art show and the event keep growing every year with more viewers, more participating artists bridging various art expressions and more media exposure. We hope that SOS ART 2007, scheduled for May, will continue to build on this solid basis and that its messages

of peace, justice, love and tolerance will again prevail and will become part of Cincinnati's daily life.

Sincere thanks to everyone who directly or indirectly contributed to its success and to the dissemination of its messages. Special thanks to Gary Gaffney and Bill Howes who were instrumental in planning the event; to Robert Inhuman and Colin Murray who organized, scheduled and orchestrated all the musical performances; to Kevin Barbro who helped insure that all goes smoothly; and last but not least to Andrew Au without the help and the skills of whom this book would not have been possible.

Hope to see everyone again at SOS ART 2007. Until then, please keep the messages of peace and social justice loud and alive.

With gratitude,

Saad Ghosn, SOS ART organizer

ARTISTS

Barbara Ahlbrand
Andrew Au
Lauri A. Aultman
Kevin Barbro
Sheri Besso
Jeremy Blair
Theo Bogen
Jim Bono
Robert Boremski (V & V)
Emily Bruns
Mikolina Caporale
Nina Caporale
Jeff Casto
Jan Brown Checco
Catherine Chiara
Eva Clarke
Halena Cline
Dave Cobb
Amy Combs
Courtney Cooper (V & V)
Marty Cooper
Stephanie Cooper
Martha Crotty
Holland Davidson
Laurence Deprez
Mike Deye
Scott Donaldson
Tony Dotson
Jen Eastridge
Joan Effertz
Elizabeth Farians
Mallory Feltz
Ryan Fields
Dorothy Gehres Fraemb
Gerilyn Frey
Gary Gaffney
William Gardiner
Stephen Geddes
Saad Ghosn
Wayne Hambrick
Stephen Herero
Kate Holterhoff
Amos Hopkins
Sue Neufarth Howard
Sandy Howley
Peter Huttinger
Jimi Jones
Larry Jones
Suzanne Kehr
Stephen Kenny
Martine Khadr-Van Schoote

MUSICIANS

Lonna D. Kingsbury
Traven La Botz
Mary Ann Lederer
Kenneth Leslie
Brad Liggett
Ryan Little
Tom Lohre
K. Irvin Madsen
Kirk Mayhew
Gloria McGlinchey
Sandy McKnight
Joe Meiser
C. Pic Michel
Michelle Miller
Paul Mitchell
Donald Nesbitt
Kurt Nicaise
Carrie M. Nixon
Jamie Oberschlake
Kristen Olsen
Elizabeth Otten
Minsook Park
Mark Patsfall
Benny Paul
Thomas Phelps
Jennifer Purdum
Matt Reed
Wolfgang A. Ritschel
Rick Robick
Kristin Rose
SCATTERBRAIN
Bill Schickel
Senja Searle
Jim Shupert
Mitchell Sipus
J. Michael Skaggs
Sandra Small
Stacey Smith
Tim Stegmaier
Joe Stoner
Emily Storch
Kurt Storch
Steve Sunderland
T.M Tatman (aka A.Timo.T)
Kim Rae Taylor
Derek Toebbe
Lynn Topits (V & V)
Tom Towhey
Eric Triantafillou
Jennifer Ustick
Carole Winters

PERFORMERS

Allies in the Movement Crew:
"Break Dancing"
Steve Iansky and Leigh Waltz:
"Exit Strategy"
Leigh Waltz: **"Prisoner"**
Bret C. Duncan: **"The Guild of George Washington vs. Gilgamesh"**
Snakes Rising: **"Mideast and Trance Rhythms and Dance"**
Pure Dance: **"Circle Dance"**
Tim Stegmaier: **"Suspicious Package/World Trade"**

POETS

Lennox Alleyne
Amma (Susan Hergert)
Barbara Bonney
Vickie Cimprich
Bret Duncan
Mark Flanigan
Joanne Greenway
Michael Henson
Jeff Hillard
Sue Neufarth Howard
Brian Huels
W.B. Ignatius
Janelle Johnson
Jerry Judge
Lonna Kingsbury
Justin Moore
Mike Murphy
Barbara Nagel
Aaron Osterbrock
Kathleen Riemenschneider
Brian Ross
Aralee Strange



SOS ART 2006: Program of Events

Friday April 21

6:00pm: Opening
7:30pm: Artists walk-thru with commentaries on art works
9:00pm: Reception and Entertainment (Break dancing with the Allies in Movement Crew)

Saturday April 22

7:00pm: Poetry reading
9:00pm: Documentary movie: "The Corporation"

Friday April 28

7:00pm: Presentation/Panel Discussion: "Tijuana: Globalization and A Border City," coordinated by Dan Labotz, with Jennifer Ciancio, Shaina Horner and Emily Mustkin
9:00pm: Music: SX; Ultra//Vires; Robert Inhuman (Realcide); Being; Dr Sombitch;
Videos: KRZog; Uncle Witt

Saturday April 29

7:00pm: Poetry reading
9:00pm: Documentary movie: "A Cold Day in DC, The Counter Inaugural", followed by discussion with Director David Sholle and Co-Producers Andy Marko, Andrea Chalfin and Joshua Green

Sunday April 30

3:00pm: Presentation/Panel Discussion: "Peak Oil & After: Creating a Sustainable Society While Entering the Post-Carbon World", coordinated by Michael Murphy, with Janet Kalven, Sharon Whitehead-Jones, Jeanette Raychyck and Bob Craig
4:30pm: Documentary movie: "The End of Suburbia"

Friday May 5

7:00pm: Documentary movie: 'Just Call Me Kade'; followed by a Presentation/Panel discussion: "Social and Political issues facing Transgendered individuals", coordinated by Carol Lippmann with Paula Isenson, Phelicia Barnes and Scott Knox.
9:00pm: Music: Evolve; SWILL; Criminally Minded; 12" Agitator; DJ Simene Civix

Saturday May 6

7:00pm: Poetry reading
9:00pm: Multimedia Performances:
"Exit Strategy" with Steve Lansky and Leigh Waltz
"Prisoner" with Leigh Waltz
"The Guild of George Washington vs Gilgamesh" with Bret C. Duncan
"Mideast and Trance Rhythms and Dance" with Snakes Rising
"Circle Dance" with Pure Dance
"Suspicious Package/World Trade" with Tim Stegmaier

Sunday May 7

4:00pm: Wrap up of event; Artists' feedback and discussion
5:00pm: Closing reception with music by "Entheos"

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday: 6:00 - 9:00pm
Friday and Saturday: 7:00pm - 12:00am
Sunday: 3:00 - 6:00pm





Barbara AHLBRAND

b.ahlbrand@fuse.net

"My pieces are about creation and the resulting destruction; productivity and spiritual sterility; the building blocks of thinking."

Barbara Ahlbrand is a longtime Greater Cincinnati artist who studied at NKU and under Aileen F. McCarthy of Covington, KY. Barbara is a frequent contributor to the local arts scene; her work is part of many private collections.

Left: Balancing Mass
oil on canvas, 3 pieces, 29" x 6" (aggregate)

Below: In Uteri
oil on canvas, 3 pieces, 6" x 29" (aggregate)



Andrew AU

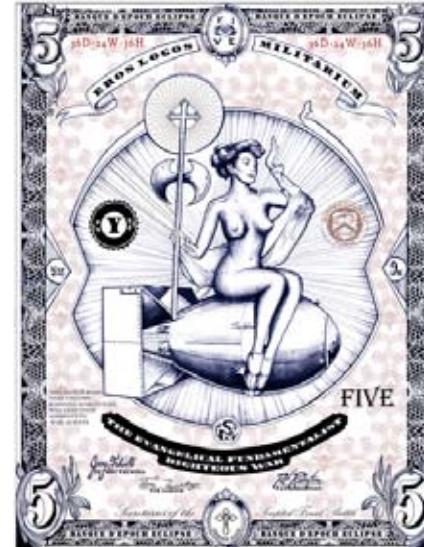
rotor242@yahoo.com

"On our currencies, we embellish our leaders and our victories, with hubris. My prints intend to show a different side to contemporary thought, what we do not commemorate but is influential and often quite detrimental to our development and progress as humankind."

Andrew Au, born 1972, Chicago, IL, has lived in Corciano, Italy, Washington, DC, New Orleans, LA, and is now back in Cincinnati. Andrew has exhibited nationally and internationally, working primarily in printmaking and digital media. He is an Assistant Professor of Art at Miami University at Middletown and a survivor of Hurricane Katrina.

Banque D'Epoch Eclipse #4: Architects of Terror
archival digital print, 22" x 17"

Banque D'Epoch Eclipse #5: The Fundamentalist, Religious, Righteous War
archival digital print, 22" x 17"



Lauri A. AULTMAN

laauri@aol.com

"I wear my peace bracelet everyday. The bumper sticker on my truck reads 'there is no way to peace; peace is the way'. This, however, is not enough for me; I want to do more. My work reflects the road I travel peacefully, doing art for and with kids to help them learn about themselves and other cultures."

Described by her students at Bond Hill Recreation Center as "hippie" or "peacenik", Lauri Aultman is taking the slow path in her art career and only recently started exhibiting her work. Lauri is currently working on two children's books.

Peace Dove: September 2005
mixed media, 9" x 7" x 6"

Peace Dreams
mixed media, 43" x 20" x 3"

**Kevin BARBRO**

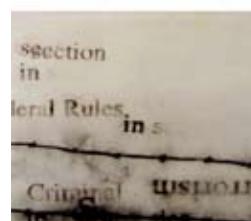
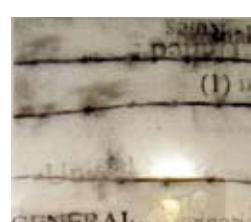
barbrokw@netscape.net

"My drawings center on the issues of privacy, surveillance, and control. Since the inception of the Patriot Act, questions regarding domestic spying have been raised and debated. Many challenge the use and authority of the government to direct and implement these measures. We must engage in this dialogue as surveillance, manipulation and control, all directly challenge what it means to be free."

Kevin Barbro from Cincinnati has a BFA from UC (2006). He has shown his artwork in several galleries, locally and regionally. Kevin's art challenges the ideas of capitalism, government, control, and hierarchy. It focuses directly on confronting the barriers that severely limit a humane, sustainable and peaceful world.

Target
charcoal, watercolor, and graphite on paper, 20" x 42"

Untitled
charcoal on paper, 28" x 14"





Sherri BESSO
sbesso@taftmuseum.org

"My flags are in response to the current debate on the war in Iraq. These iconic American images, revolutionary and threatening by design, reside in the American psyche as 1)Ours, and 2)A testament to our nature of domination and indignation. Regardless if the glass is half empty or half full, they are a fitting complement to the crisis occurring overseas."

Sherri Besso lives in Cincinnati. She received an associate degree from UC and a BFA in sculpture and Art History from the Art academy of Cincinnati. She is currently an Assistant Preparator at the Taft Museum.

Don't Tread on Me
canvas, paint, fabric, thread, grommets, 47" x 30"

Join or Die
canvas, paint, tar, thread, grommets, 47" x 30"

Jeremy BLAIR
jeremymichaelb@yahoo.com

"'Voices' is a commentary on how negative opinions are stereotypically heard about our government. My generation has developed a voice too predictable and void of original thought. We need to restore validity in this generation's freedom of speech. 'Lady Liberty' portrays the change in our country; she is intensely looking back at us, because we seem to forget what she represents."

Jeremy Blair, 22 years old, from Fairfield, OH, graduated from Miami University with a BA in Art Education (2006). Jeremy works in many media- oil paint, found-object, kinetic and outdoor sculpture, collage, drawing, photography. He is most interested in Avant Garde art movements like Dada and Neo-Dadas.

Voices
assemblage collage, 20" x 16" x 5"

Lady Liberty
oil on canvas, 36" x 36"



Theo BOGEN

120 W. Nixon, Apt. 2, Cincinnati, OH, 45220

"The future looks really bleak at this point. Drawing is a way to imagine a situation that is different; like a chant or a prayer."

Theo Bogen comes from Cincinnati where he spends a lot of time at Burnett Woods drawing. Drawing has been his easiest way to think and talk for a long time.

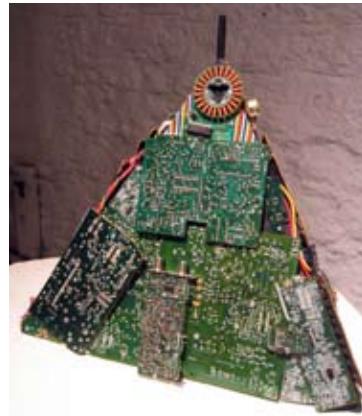
Untitled

watercolor, ink, 11" x 8"

**Jim BONO**

jlbo@zoomtown.com

"Social issues inspire my work. I am appalled at how we allow our environment to be marred by litter and uncontrolled cell phone towers. I worry when I see my children and grand children obsessed by electronic gadgets and software. I shudder when I hear today's list of faceless war casualties on the 6 o'clock news."



Jim Bono; retired chemical engineer, P & G; BFA Summa Cum Laude, College of Mt. St. Joseph (May 05); "Contemporary Pieta" sculpture at MSJ Library; sculptures exhibited at SOS Art, Herman Miller Gallery, Beaux Arts Ball; sculpture and painting commissions, Cincinnati & Northern KY.

Blight of the Land
acrylic on canvas, 24" x 30"

Contemporary Pieta II
faux bronze ceramic, 5" x 8" x 8"

False Gods
mixed media sculpture, 15" x 16" x 14"



Emily BRUNS
cemchild@yahoo.com

"My piece, composed of a semi circle of 5 figures, invites the viewer to enter and examine each face. Once inside, a feeling of judgment, paranoia, and intimidation takes place; gossip applicable to every human being, every day. My piece wants to make visible the ugliness of our need to feel superior to others"



Emily Bruns is a native Cincinnati who is studying art at UC/DAAP, with a focus on sculpture. Emily is inspired by life and by her observation of society."

Sticks and Stones (also shown details)
bronze, sttel, MDF, 6' x 6' x 6'

Nina CAPORALE

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"We often take for granted that Americans share things in common. This is most obvious in phrases like "as American as apple pie." By inviting people to participate in a shared, creative experience, the multiplicity of our culture is rendered visible. That which is "American" is neither fixed nor singular: the meaning changes each time we gather together. What do you bring to the table? My piece illustrates that multiplicity as it relates to food composed of the same ingredients."

Born and raised in Cincinnati, OH, and currently living in Athens, OH, Nina Corporale is pursuing her MFA in Sculpture at Ohio University. She completed her BFA in Sculpture at UC.

American Dishes 2
mixed media installation



Jeff CASTO

je5cs@aol.com

"When one country decides to invade another country, whether based upon deception, greed, false information or insincere motives -- only chaos and destruction results."

Jeff Casto, a West Virginia-born artist, has been living and working in Cincinnati for over two decades. He has a BFA from the Art Academy of Cincinnati (1987) and an MFA from UC/DAAP (1989). His work fuses painting with sculpture; found objects with 2D issues of color and design; it is often autobiographical or sociopolitical, peppered with pathos and humor. Jeff has exhibited through the Midwest and in NYC; his work is in several corporate and private collections, local and abroad.

Destination Devastation

mixed media construction, 26" x 32" x 4"

**Jan Brown CHECCO**

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"The American invasion of Iraq - a bloody sham - backroom machinations - daily body counts - guilt and shame by association - fear-mongering and mind control - a propaganda campaign of lies - inability to educate our own struggling population - a pestilence that has spread farther than any small-time despot could have dreamed - our own despots hiding under the skirts of Democracy - America, where is your rage?"

Jan Brown Checco is a studio artist and administrator of international and regional visual arts programming. Her work includes design, drawing, painting, ceramics and assemblage. A proponent of community-based public art, Jan partners with artists from diverse cultures to create relationships as well as public art.

Where is our rage?

Oil on canvas, 39" x 30"

**Catherine CHIARA**

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“Skyline of Cincinnati” is a painting about a city that is in social and political turmoil because of a curse placed on the city by the Native Indians that once inhabited the land. The curse, until broken, will prohibit the city from progressing further. ‘Volcano’ is an image of the natural explosion caused by the Cincinnati Curse.”



Catherine Chiara: born in Cincinnati, OH; moved to California and went to Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, 1991-1993; founder of the co-op gallery, Flying Squirrel (1993), Costa Mesa; developed her own style, pixelism, 2005; work shown regionally and nationally; currently lives in Cincinnati.

Skyline of Cincinnati
oil on canvas, 30" x 48"

Volcano
oil on canvas, 30" x 24"

Eva CLARKE

clarkeeva@yahoo.com

“My mixed media ceramic works use symbolism to convey psychological and political themes, in particular issues of American culture such as the lack of emotional and material security and race relations.”

Eva Clarke: originally from Marietta, OH; graduated in 2000 from The College of Wooster with a degree in studio art; moved to Cincinnati in 2001; participated in many art shows.

History
ceramic, 6" x 12"

Stems
ceramic, 18" x 18"



Halena CLINE

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"My works are commentaries on the present US government's response to the Katrina disaster and on the imperialistic attitude taken by the president and vice president."

Halena Cline is a local artist. Some of her recent exhibits are: 'Variegated Soul', Cathedral Gallery, Covington, KY (2004); 'ROSEROS', Risch Gallery, Ft. Thomas, KY (2003); 'Halena Cline & John Jacob Stanley', The Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Hamilton, OH (1998); 'Blue Boy', Carnegie Art Center, Covington, KY (1997); 'Halena Cline & Michael Goodlet', Kentucky Arts and Crafts Gallery, Louisville, KY (1996).

Katrina

watercolor and ink, 24" x 30"

The King of the West

watercolor and ink, 24" x 30"

**Amy COMBS**

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"This work evaluates the violent nature of society, the sensualism of hate, the gradual desensitization of our consciousness through the media. By collecting images found in visual culture and incorporating them into these pieces, I question the justification and acceptance of killing and treason committed with flippant, strategic decisions to dissect destructive psychology and the bargaining of our moral attitudes."

Amy Combs is a Cincinnati artist who attends UC for a masters degree in art education. Amy has been involved in many collaborative art projects, group exhibitions, and art education programs, including the Art-o-Mat and the Flying Pig Marathon.

Bombshell I
mixed media, 40" x 34"

Bombshell II
mixed media, 40" x 34"



Marty COOPER

privcoop@aol.com

"My piece 'Good Ole Boys' captures two men in a meeting of collusion, reminiscent of the ways men in the current administration make decisions and laws on our behalf; they should be little trusted."

Marty Cooper, a native Cincinnatian, is a self-taught painter and designer. He has been for the past 20 years the lead designer and research and development head of the Dakota Watch Company.

Good Ole Boys
oil on panel, 18" x 14"

Stephanie COOPER

rabartsc@zoomtown.com

"My sculpture is a comment on the fact that justice in the court system does not always work (for instance for victims of a crime or for individuals falsely accused) but that truth, in the end, always comes out."

Stephanie Cooper has an MFA in sculpture from UC (1980). She has taught art at the college level at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, UC and NKU. Stephanie has received several grants from the Ohio Art Council and the City of Cincinnati and is a Post-Corbett awardee (1987). She has exhibited widely, locally and nationally, and her work is in many private, public and museum collections.

Justice is Blind, But the Truth is Naked
carved wood, 48" x 9" x 7"



Martha CROTTY

crottycrotty@fuse.net

"Through my artwork I find joy learning about animals – how each species is unique and necessary – and recreating them. I search for ways to engage people, especially children, with animals, and how to grow fonder of them. I want my work to encourage the idea that we share this small planet with animals, that their survival is our responsibility, and that whatever we do to the environment has consequences for them."

Martha Crotty is a writer and artist living in Cincinnati with her husband Roger, a poet. To pay the rent, they have a home-based writing/design business called Crotty&Crotty. Martha has a short story published in the new Cincinnati Writers Project anthology "One has to die". She exhibited her artwork in the Hyde Park Art show 2004.

Endangered Animals, A-Z

hand-sewn wool felt wall hanging, 48" x 45"

**Holland DAVIDSON**

hollanddavidson@roadrunner.com

"We are all human and I want to relate that message to all people.' Bootsy Collins"

Holland Davidson's paintings have been shown in the tri-state since 1993. Her work is in many collections, locally and abroad; also in the permanent collection of the Cincinnati Art Museum.

TRAGICOMIC

oil on canvas, 30" x 40"



Laurence DEPREZ

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“Both pieces deal with the idea of the child as a victim, when innocence is stolen forever. The images are not obvious and kind of mysterious. To understand them, the viewer needs to get closer to feel and almost physically experience their subject. Their color scheme is simple and dark on purpose.”

Laurence Deprez is Belgian with a degree in Business Administration. In 2002 her career took a turn when she decided to dedicate herself to painting and frequented the studios of various artists in order to develop technical mastery. In 2003, she moved to Rome and completed 2 academic years at the Rome University of Fine Arts. In 2005, she moved to Cincinnati. Laurence participated in numerous collective exhibitions here and abroad

Infanzia negata (Denied Childhood)
acrylic and masking tape on paper, 33" x 27"

Parents ravisseurs (Kidnapping parents)
acrylic, charcoal and newspaper on paper, 26" x 21"

Mike DYE

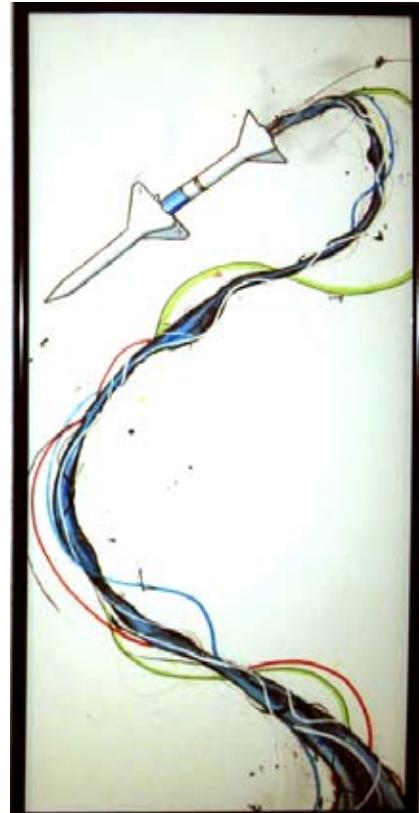
mikedeye@netzero.net

“My pieces represent the mental and physical insanity caused by war. The two soldiers proudly marching off to battle are two children, their head removed and ignorance spewing forth from their necks into an otherwise rational reality. The rocket is captured in mid-flight, leaving behind it a trail of ultra-violence before it reaches its ultimate conclusion.”

Believing that everything isn't what it appears to be, Mike Dye tries to tear down the world stripping away the facade of so-called rationality to expose the true inner workings of the human mind. Refusing to paint backgrounds to show his creation's self-centeredness, he uses a series of scribbles, ink splatters, and paint smears to show how stable most of us truly are.

Children Soldiers
mixed media, 20" x 10"

Rocket
mixed media, 20" x 10"



Scott DONALDSON

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"Boxed" is about how we cut ourselves off, boxed, from the richness of the greater world by our prejudices and obsessions. 'Hide and Seek' is about the sinister nature of ambush and the fear of hiding. We sympathize with the hider and fear ambush from the seeker. Is he an agent of the government or a criminal? What is the other man hiding from? In this world are we being watched?"

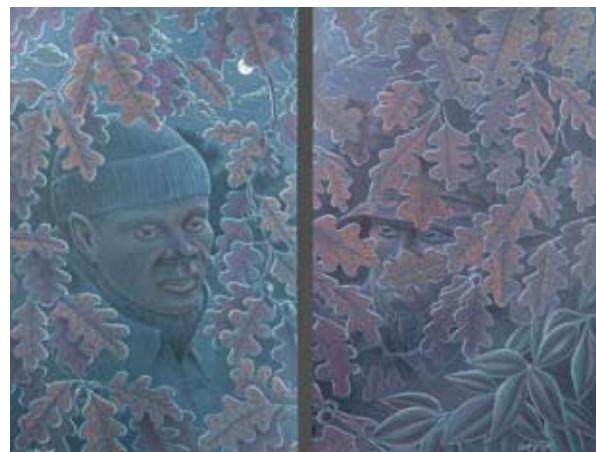
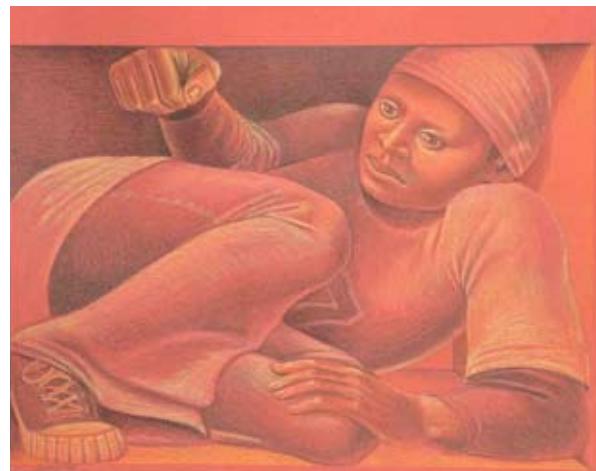
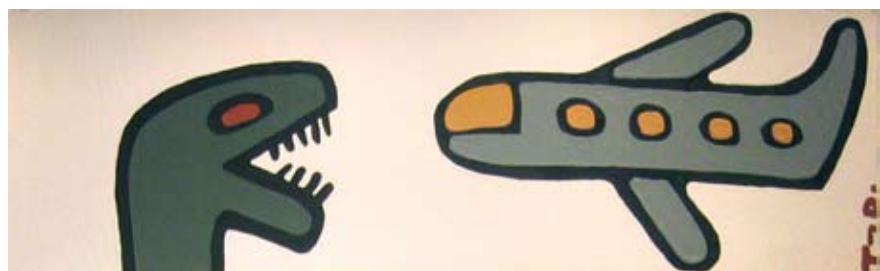
Scott Donaldson has an MFA in Theater Arts from the U. of Minnesota (1982). He worked as a set designer, a scene painter and an exhibit designer and in 2003 began his career as an artist while continuing as an independent exhibit designer. Scott's art has been shown locally. He is the recipient of an Individual Artist Grant from the city of Cincinnati (2005).

Boxed

colored pencil on paper, 18" x 24"

Hide and Seek

colored pencil on paper, 26" x 34"

**BIRMINGHAM****Tony DOTSON**

dotsontony@yahoo.com

"Reality TV" represents the struggle of a race for justice. 'Monster Movie' speaks of simpler times when there was a playful kind of peace in the air; when people thought things only happened in the movies; when the only fear people had of planes was that a giant lizard would eat them."

Tony Dotson is an outsider artist who has been painting since 2002. His first solo show was in 2003; he since never looked back. Tony uses house paint on wood and paints like the old folk artists he collects. His art is simple but also tries to make people think. Tony calls his work "caveman art".

Reality TV

house paint on wood, 24" x 36"

Monster Movie

house paint on wood, 12" x 28"

I'M TIRED OF BEING BOMBARDED BY NEWS. EVERY TIME I TURN ON THE T.V. OR RADIO, I HEAR HATE. THE NEWSPAPER AND INTERNET REMIND ME OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USE FAITH AS AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK ME AS I LIVE MY LIFE. USING GOD AS A REASON TO CONDEMN OTHERS WHO AREN'T SELF-REPLICATED, SEEMS TO RESONATE OF A FASCIST IDEOLOGY. IF YOU REALLY THINK I AM WRONG—IF YOU REALLY THINK I SIN BY SIMPLY LOVING ANOTHER

PERSON OF THE SAME SEX, THEN BRING ON YOUR NAZI SOLDIERS, PREACH HATE AND VIOLENCE, AND KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME. YOUR HATE CAN'T HURT ME. KNOW WHY? BECAUSE GOD MADE ME TOO. DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK, OR REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY VERSION AND MY VISION PRESENT A VIEW OF A GOOD, LOVING AND ACCEPTING GOD WHO'S GOT MY BACK. SO, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE AND LET ME LIVE MY LIFE BECAUSE I AM TIRED

OH, AND BEFORE I LET GO...DITCH THAT "HATE THE SIN AND LOVE THE SINNER" SPIEL. IT FUELS YOUR SERMON WITH A MISLEADING CONCEPT THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO FEEL JUSTIFIED IN JUDGING OTHERS' ACTIONS. STOP IT, FOR I'M TIRED

Jen EASTRIDGE

jen@jenergy.com

"Tired" reflects my current feelings about the conservative right using faith as a reason to oppress me (as a lesbian). It vocalizes my exhaustion with the constant attack on marginalized groups, specifically LGBT individuals, by those who feel socially legitimate. This exhaustion can lead to social anger, impetus for social change. When tired and angry, our true emotions easily show."

Jen Eastridge earned a BFA in Art History and Museum Studies from the Art Academy of Cincinnati. As an artist she uses many mediums and is driven by the simplicities that fascinate and entertain her. "I will pick up paints on one day and torches on another, but all the same. My chisels chip, my brushes paint, my torches solder, but it is me...my energy...my work...my love."

Tired
oil stick on canvas, 38" x 33"

Joan EFFERTZ

joan.effertz@gmail.com

"The White Thread of Dawn" # 1 and 2, are from 'People of the Book', a new body of work inspired by a passage from the Qur'an. People of the Book refer to all prophets in the Old and New Testaments and the Qur'an. Despite sharing many basic peaceful values and a common lineal heritage, the three monotheist religions have yet caused a great deal of war and suffering."

Joan Effertz has an MA in art education (UC), and MFA in printmaking (Pratt Institute) and an English certification (UC). She has taught at the Art Academy of Cincinnati and was director of Tiger Lily Press for seven years. Joan also was a Paideia coach and taught in Cincinnati Public Schools for 19 years..

The White Thread of Dawn #1
mixed media, 12" x 16"

The White Thread of Dawn #2
mixed media, 12" x 16"



Elizabeth FARIANS

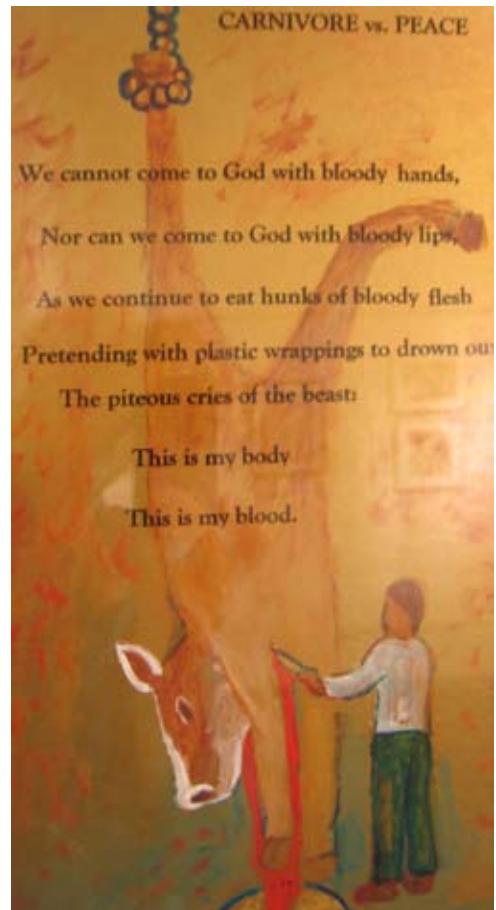
Mary Ann LEDERER

ejf.ape@juno.com

"The work depicts a man in the slaughterhouse slitting the throat of a cow to be cut up and sold for meat; the cow's blood drips into a chalice. The poem says that this violence is not consistent with the Peace of Christ. We attempt to ignore cruelty as we attempt to silence the cries of the animal with the plastic wrapping of its flesh."

Elizabeth Farians is a Pioneer Woman Theologian, a Veteran Feminist and an Animal Person. She has spent her life working for peace, initiating activities to empower women to be full participants in the human community and spreading compassion to animals. Mary Ann Lederer is a Cincinnati artist (see additional info under her name).

This Violence is Not Consistent With the Peace of Christ (also shown, detail)
acrylics, 16" x 20"



Mallory FELTZ

mal_feltz@yahoo.com

"My piece depicts visually the need of our country to overmedicate. Pills advocated for insomnia, question where we stand if we need to resort to them to achieve such a basic need."

Mallory Feltz is a senior sculpture major at UC. Her work, often autobiographic and personal, still relates to others. It deals with issues of personal identity in a chaotic world.

No Rest for the Weary (also shown, detail)
plastic and pills, 3 pillows, each 24" x 24" x 10"





Ryan FIELDS
ronfelds@hotmail.com

"My piece is a statement about the restraints and limitations our government currently forces on us. The Nazi and former Soviet Union flags in the background and the silhouette of the soldier, all casting shadows over the American flag, symbolically state the direction of our country if we let our leaders take our rights away and lower the education standards of our society."

Ryan Fields has lived in the Cincinnati area all of his life save for one year spent in the Marine Corps. He is a current student at NKU, majoring in Graphic Design. In his art, Ryan uses drawing and recently printmaking to address political matters.

Encroaching Shadows
acrylic and airbrush on wood, 48" x 24"

Dorothy Gehres FRAEMBS

10758 Chelmsford Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45240

"My 2 pieces are part of a series of social commentary assemblages that I did from 1968 to 1973 during the turmoil of the period. Do these antiques still seem relevant???"

In 1956, marriage brought Dorothy Fraemb, a then illustrator in a Chicago Ad agency, to Cincinnati and to subsequent art opportunities. Her children taught her about the world and the death of her husband, in 1973, led her to teach comart to high school juniors, an experience she really treasured.

War
mixed media, 18" x 12" x 18"

God's Favorite Child
mixed media, 15" x 15" x 15"



Gerilyn FREY

gfrey1@cinci.rr.com

"Trapped' portrays my vision of the future if political correctness and religious intolerance continue to escalate. Will we all be cowering in a basement frightened to express our true thoughts? How 'brave' will we have to be to express ourselves in the land of the 'free'?"

Self-portrait photographer, Gerilyn Frey, has been making images for a number of years. Whether through her soft and subtle portraits or harsh and disturbing images, people connect to her in their own personal way.

Trapped

photograph/digital, 20" x 16"

**Gary GAFFNEY**

ggaffney@artacademy.edu

"The magnets are from a series called STATart, in which I use numbers and statistics gleaned from the Internet to indicate, educate and persuade."

Gary Gaffney, born in New Orleans, LA, is currently a Professor at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Gary is trying to figure out how he can create art that makes a difference, the kind that counts.

STATart Magnets
text on magnets, each 2" x 4"





William GARDINER

gardiner.w@gmail.com

"My piece represents a beheaded eagle with a camera in its place; it questions how much freedom we are willing to sacrifice."

William Gardiner: student at Walnut Hills high school; participant in Students Against War (SAW); has shown at Semantics art gallery in "Decorate your Executive".

The Eagle Camera (also shown, detail)
styrofoam, chicken feathers, security camera, television,
13" x 7" x 5 / 12" x 15" x 12"



Stephen GEDDES

slgeddes@cinci.rr.com

"Carnegie Dream" is a meditation on the nature of philanthropy in the American culture."

After receiving an MFA from Ohio U., Stephen Geddes worked as an Artist in Residence for the Kentucky Commission on the Arts, then in Cincinnati for the toy industry as a product sculptor. Stephen continued his fine art work with numerous exhibitions. He is currently concerned with head forms in carved wood and forged metal. Influenced by years of industrial involvement these pieces reflect the often uncomfortable interface between the mechanical and biomorphic worlds.

Carnegie Dream (also shown, detail)
wood and metal, 72" x 22" x 18"



Saad GHOSN
saad.ghosn@uc.edu

"My construction piece contrasts the worlds created respectively by Kevin, a 'disabled' Down syndrome artist, and by President Bush. Through his beautiful and peaceful art, Kevin contributes much more positively to our world than the actions of our 'abled' but destructive president."

Saad Ghosn, a native of Lebanon, has been living in Cincinnati since 1985. A medical professional and an educator, he resorts to visual and spoken art to express himself and convey his sociopolitical views. Saad believes that activism is at the heart of art expression. He is the founder of 'SOS ART' and the editor and publisher of the yearly 'For a Better World, Poems and Drawings on Peace and Justice by Greater Cincinnati Artists'.

Kevin for President
mixed media construction, 36" x 48"



Wayne HAMBRICK
waynehambrick7@yahoo.com

"In my work I try to show the meaningless and needless suffering of humanity brought on by political and religious piety. I try to motivate the viewer to compassion and to action."

Wayne Hambrick, a Native Cincinnatian, grew up in various parts of the city. He holds an associate degree in commercial art and computer graphics (1992). Wayne worked for over 12 years as a production artist when a low vision eye disease forced him to resign.

Blood for Oil
acrylic, 36" x 48"

American Imperialism
wash, 16" x 20"





Stephen HERERO

stephen_herero@yahoo.com

"My piece is a triptych of graphic poems: the first on global climate change; the second on personal, artistic, and vocational direction; the third on the lack of adequate government response to hurricane katrina."

Stephen Herero began writing poetry at age 14 and again at age 40. His recent work combines poetry and visual imagery. His name is an amalgam of Stephen Hero, the first draft of Joyce's Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man and the Herero tribe of Namibia which was practically wiped out by the German army due to its armed resistance to colonial repression.

The Empire Strikes Out

graphic poetry in mixed media (triptych), 52" x 96" x 6"

Kate HOLTERHOFF

kate.holterhoff@gmail.com

"My pieces are aimed at raising awareness of iconic social institutions. 'Self Portrait' looks at the relation of my physical, computer-oriented office job to the more fulfilling place to which my mind wanders. 'Machine' engages a cacophony of advertisements from 1979 that push commodities, their ridiculousness implied by the ape as the consumer. 'Economy' juxtaposes a graphic wall of 'suits' with a smaller, middle class laborer and a belly dancer working for money."

Kate Holterhoff is a senior of fine art at UC focusing on 2D. She has participated in many local shows and her works have been displayed at Cooper's on Main and Jacob's on the Avenue.

Self Portrait

Machine

Economy

intaglio print, each 12" x 5.5"



Amos HOPKINS

somasnikpoh@yahoo.com

"The kites displayed were created during the 'Kites for Peace' event staged in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh, India. The event brought together members from different castes and religions of the community (mostly Muslims and Hindus with a past violent history) for the purpose of peaceful kite flying. The participants made the kites, decorated them with themes of peace and flew them in unison."

Amos Hopkins, an artist and musician, has a BFA from DAAP/ UC. Amos has studied art and indigenous carving around the world and has been involved with many community-based arts projects locally and internationally. Until recently he lived in Cincinnati, OH, where he was the Studio Director for Visionaries and Voices, a studio/gallery for artists with disabilities.

Kites for Peace #1-4 (also shown, detail)
paint/collage on paper and fabric, 30" x 30"



Sue Neufarth HOWARD

snhpoet@netzero.com

"My pieces are abstract and depict the colors of war, fire, blood and death and the chaos, confusion and destruction of war; they also address the obsession in a peace-loving country with language expressions of war."

Sue Neufarth Howard, a Cincinnati native, is a visual artist, published poet, business writer. Sue has degrees from Miami U, Oxford, OH (BS in speech-Radio/TV) and UC Evening college (Associate in art). She has two adult daughters. Sue is a painter of ideas, concepts, feelings/ emotions...

War
acrylic on canvas, 16"x 20"

For the Love of War (Words) (also shown, detail)
acrylic on canvas, 24" x 20"





Sandy HOWLEY
sandymh17@yahoo.com

"Innocent Life" is a sculpture composed of approximately 850 black crosses all stacked on top of each other in a cone shaped pile. The crosses represent American soldiers killed in the war in Iraq. I dedicate my piece to all the families and friends who have lost their loved ones in this unjust war."

Sandy Howley is a freedom fighter. This is her fourth year participating in the SOS ART show. She is currently working on two independent films while continuing to make political art. Sandy's artwork reflects her strong opposition to the current government and the need for a regime change.

Innocent Life? (also shown, detail)
installation with wood and acrylic paint, 5' x 12'



Peter HUTTINGER

huttinger@fuse.net, www.homeadowsongfarm.com

"Untitled (Peace Now)" is based on the 'Piece Poster' issued by the Weathermen in the early 1970s. The Weathermen's poster is an image of an M-16 rifle with the text 'Piece Now'. I have redone the poster with an image of a Glock automatic with the text 'Peace Now'. Whereas the Weathermen's poster was a 'call to arms' mine is a 'sign of our times'"

Peter Huttinger: born: 1953, West Palm Beach, FL; MFA, UC, 1979; has exhibited widely (Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Art Museum, etc. in Cincinnati, Feigen Contemporary in Chicago, Feature gallery and the Drawing Center in NYC, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC). Peter has been living and working in Cincinnati for over 25 years; he is a long time organic vegetable gardener. Peter worked for the Contemporary Arts Center as an Adjunct Curator and at UC and the Art Academy of Cincinnati as an Adjunct Instructor.

Untitled (Peace Poster)
poster/broadside, 11" x 8.5"



Jimi JONES

jones.ja.1@pg.com

"The world is full of threatening situations; when we look for heroes we sometimes find the wrong ones."

Jimi Jones has a BS in graphic design from UC. He is member of a small art movement of African American artists whose art is based on the search for ancestral truth, both modern and ancient.

www.wars & rumors of war

oil on canvas, 4 panels, each 40" x 30"



Make Art Not War

color photograph, 14" x 11"

Bushwacked in the Street
color photograph, 15" x 18"

Real Puppet
color photograph, 14" x 11"

New Pearl Harbor
color photograph, 11" x 14"

Prozac
color photograph, 11" x 14"

iGod
color photograph, 11" x 14"



The Curse of Chief Cornstalk
mixed media sculpture
36" x 20" x 10"

Larry JONES

lejones_99@yahoo.com

"For the past three years, I have been photographing street art. I see it as an alternative to the mainstream media. Much is openly rebellious and anarchistic. A year ago while in Spain, I learned from street art that police maltreatment of prisoners, the building of a high tension power line, gay and lesbian rights and the decrease in salaries were all issues in that country. Also frequently posters and stickers reference web sites of interest."

Larry E. Jones, born 1942; graduated from UC; Retired from Hamilton County Department of Human Services; currently translates Spanish for Hispanics at the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program in Lincoln Heights. First artistic pieces were constructions utilizing found objects and hand built ceramic pieces. Recently has been devoting most of his time to photography and sketching. He has exhibited regionally and nationally and photographs internationally.



Suzanne KEHR

ksuze@yahoo.com

“Impeded Growth” deals with issues of restriction and control; how society hinders us from our full potential. ‘Taxing Religion’ addresses religions’ misuse of their influence on their congregation for political reasons; it wants to question the legitimacy of religions Tax-Free status.”

Suzanne Kehr has a BFA from UC/DAAP and a BA in Sociology/Criminology from Miami University. Her work is her visual editorial on life...a commentary on people and their environment. Suzanne wants her work to challenge the viewer ‘to think’, to pause a moment to reflect and contemplate.

Impeded Growth

steel and wood, 8' x 8' x 8'

Taxing Religion

wood, insulated copper wire, found objects, 7' x 4' x 4'

Stephen KENNY

kenny2@fuse.net

“It is the responsibility and duty of fine artists to be, through their works, messengers of sociopolitical conscience. The arts, historically based on allegorical foundations, have often become diluted; painting for painting’s sake is no longer a reasonable defense. It is my intent to reinvigorate painting as a social and political tool, the brush and canvas redefined as weapons of mass edification.”

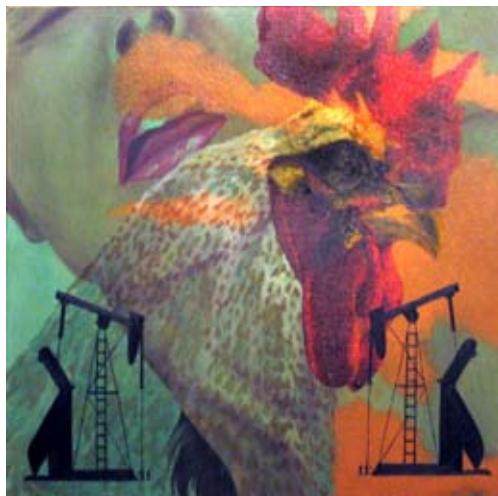
Stephen Kenny is currently a fourth year fine arts student at UC/DAAP.

Greed

oil on canvas, 24' x 24'

The Duck Is Happy In This Water

oil on canvas, 24" x 36"



Martine KHADR-VAN SCHOOTE

m.vanschoote@worldnet.att.net

"In my paintings I express my feelings through abstract beings, with realistic depiction of calamities in the background."

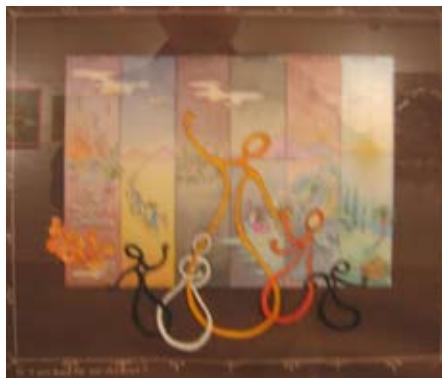
Martine Khadr-Van Schoote, a Belgian native and widow of an Egyptian engineer, is an international artist who has exhibited her work widely in the US and abroad (Europe and the Middle East). In 1992 she settled in the Greater Cincinnati area where she exhibits her paintings regularly.

Is It Any Hope for Our Children

watercolor, ink and decoupage, 13" x 16"

**Hate Brings Only Despair...and Despair Engenders Hate**

watercolor, ink and decoupage, 17" x 21"

**Lonna D. KINGSBURY**

meriprnxt1@fuse.net

"At Peace' depicts the stark beauty of the aftermath while once more waiting to be despoiled. 'And it All Fell Down' reflects the continuing cycle of life after nuclear wasting."

Lonna Kingsbury is a visual artist and a published renowned poet; she is the Poet Laureate of Miami Township. Lonna's artwork can be seen at Essex galleries and at various showings throughout the USA.

At Peace

watercolor, 12" x 16"

**And it All Fell Down**

mixed media, 18" x 24"





Traven LA BOTZ

travenlabotz@cs.com

"Chickens' are my allegorical comment on the state of our political world."

Traven La Botz just graduated from High School. He is currently pursuing studies in the arts at Cooper Union Institute in NYC. Traven uses the woodcut as a popular medium for social and political commentary

Chickens

woodcuts, two, each 24"x16"

Mary Ann LEDERER

maryann@bicyclecity.com

"I try to paint the beauty of living simply, naturally and harmoniously in an ethnically/racially diverse world where all living beings, people and animals, are protected, respected, flourish and survive."

Mary Ann Lederer began painting as a hobby after an injury in 1976 left her paraplegic. She paints the world she'd love to live in, a multi-ethnic world of freedom, equality and healthfulness, where air is clean and water pure, where plants are wild or organically grown, where animals are free - a sustainable natural world. Calling herself a "philosopher-painter," Mary Ann paints her commitment to the compassionate treatment of animals, people and the earth. She is a native Cincinnatian and a graduate of UC with a Masters in community planning.

Sustainability
acrylic on canvas, 24"x18"

Sanctuary
acrylic on canvas, 18"x24"



Kenneth LESLIE

Lesliecnc1@aol.com

"War Fashions' deals with the influence of war on fashion and how fashion is influenced by forces of every day struggles. Fashion can be protest or patriotism."

Ken Leslie, a native of Cincinnati, OH, attended UC and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AK, and majored in music and fine arts. He is a founding member of the Neo Ancestral art group. A musician at heart, Ken's visual artwork is influenced by music, colors, lines and forms in his images representing textural motions of sound. Ken is well-known for his colorful muralistic renderings of graffiti-like images that speak to the spiritual condition of the world today.

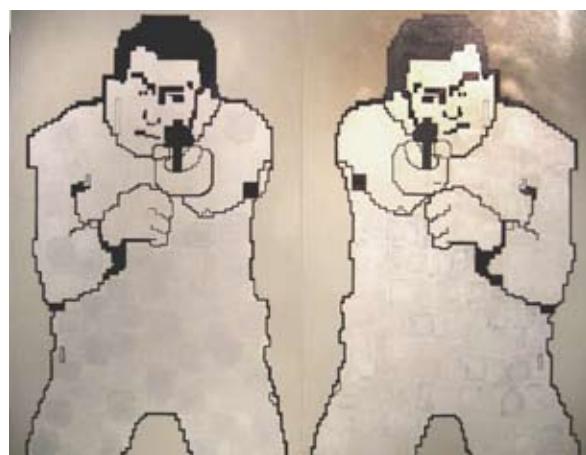
War Fashions

mixed media, 36"x36"

**Brad LIGGETT**

jbliggett@hotmail.com

"My pieces are about aspects of violence in our society and how we tend to beautify each as either a sport or a Constitutional right. Both pieces have been painted in a pleasant way as to mask their violent nature. Last year I was robbed at gunpoint by two guys with a sawed-off shotgun that I doubt was ever used for hunting or self defense."



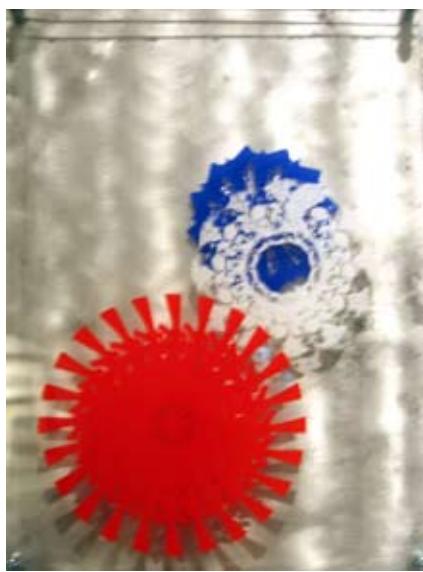
My work is more about creative vision than technical ability. I try to leave some mystery and ambiguity in my work in order to challenge the viewer to see it differently and make the piece their own. I'd like those who see my work to think about how the elements I used make them feel, question my choices and my intended statement, if any.

Joe Louis VS.

mixed media on board, 32"x48"

Target [Squared]

mixed media on board, 32"x48"



Ryan LITTLE

rlittle@fuse.net

"I consider myself to be a socially conscious and politically aware person, but I rarely express these beliefs through my art. I saw SOS as an opportunity to address the times we live in in a more forthright manner; my pieces address the disconnect that Americans have with other parts of the world, characterized by a sense of hypnotic disillusionment and guiltless zeal."

Ryan Little is a self-taught artist who has been involved in the Cincinnati art scene for several years. Ryan's art reflects a blending of his background in graffiti art, which he began in his early teens, and an education in graphic design

Untitled 1

mixed media on panel, 20" x 16"

Untitled 2

mixed media on paper, 20" x 16"

Tom LOHRE

tom@tomlohre.com; www.tomlohre.com

"The painting is an allegory of threat. Painted in 1980 at the end of the Cold War, it was meant to show the nuclear threat of the period. The woman represents humanity, the tiger in front of her the powers available to her, the chair behind her authority. The snake in front of the earth represents the threat of a nuclear holocaust. Today the threat is different but still there."

Tom Lohre is a life long, full time fine artist for portraits, cityscapes, seascapes, landscapes, space or abstract paintings. Tom also creates sculptures and robotic and machine art performances. His exhibit history includes fine art shows in New York, Nantucket, Palm Beach, Atlanta, Cincinnati and Covington, KY..

Hiroshima Mon Amour

oil on canvas, 54"x 44"



K. Irvin MADSEN

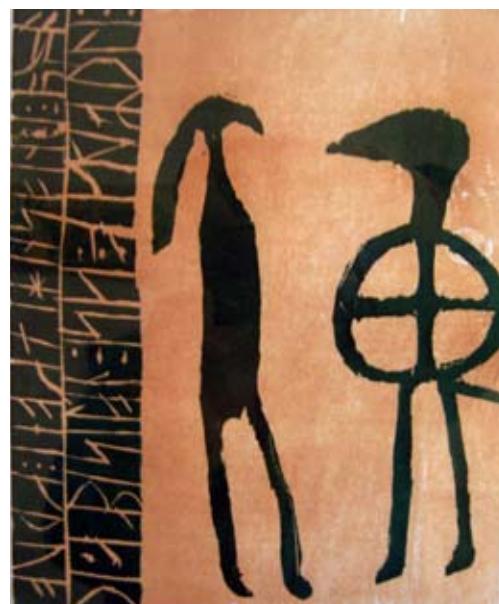
madsen@fuse.net

"In 'Separation of Church and State', I call attention to the First Amendment of The Bill of Rights. Some in our country think that religion and politics are the same entity; they have difficulty understanding our Founding Father's wisdom, that the two remain separate for the survival of our Republic and the preservation of our constitution. In 'New Speak' I translated a quote from George Orwell's 1984, into Danish and used the old Nordic alphabet to carve the quotation into the woodcut."

K. Irvin Madsen; long time art patron, collector and self-taught artist; lives in Cincinnati.

Separation of Church and State
etching print, 12" x 19"

New Speak
woodcut, 17" x 15"

**Kirk MAYHEW**

Kirk_mayhew@hotmail.com

"The separation wall, started by the Israeli government in April 2002, consists of concrete walls, trenches and barbed wire fences erected in the Palestinian West Bank. It is expected to be 425 miles long and is twice the height of the former Berlin Wall. It will come complete with gun towers, x-ray machines, checkpoints. My purposefully fragile replica questions the inevitability of the project, critiques the current situation, and attempts to raise the viewer's critical awareness."

Kirk Mayhew is a regionally and internationally showing sculptor based in Cincinnati, is an instructor at NKU and the Art Academy. Kirk has been exhibiting his raw hand built sculptures since 1998. He collaborates with other artists for gallery and site-specific installations.

Security (also shown, detail)
stoneware, silica sand, 18" x 96" x 18"



Gloria McCONNAGHY

GloriaMcConnagh@fuse.net

"Good works, compassion and beauty historically have been overshadowed by man's desire for power and retaliation. Without love and beauty the earth is not a desirable place to be. In 'Mother Theresa in the Himalayas' Chenrezig, the Buddha's emanation of compassion, inspires mother Theresa as she works at her desk. In 'Japanese disaster survivors' innocence is being destroyed by the desire to retaliate."

Gloria McConnagh; international public health professional; technical writer/illustrator; postage stamp designer; jewelry store owner/manager; artist: wannabe, emerging, actual.

Mother Theresa in the Himalayas

mixed media assemblage, 20" x 12"

Japanese disaster survivors

mixed media assemblage, 16"x10"x4"

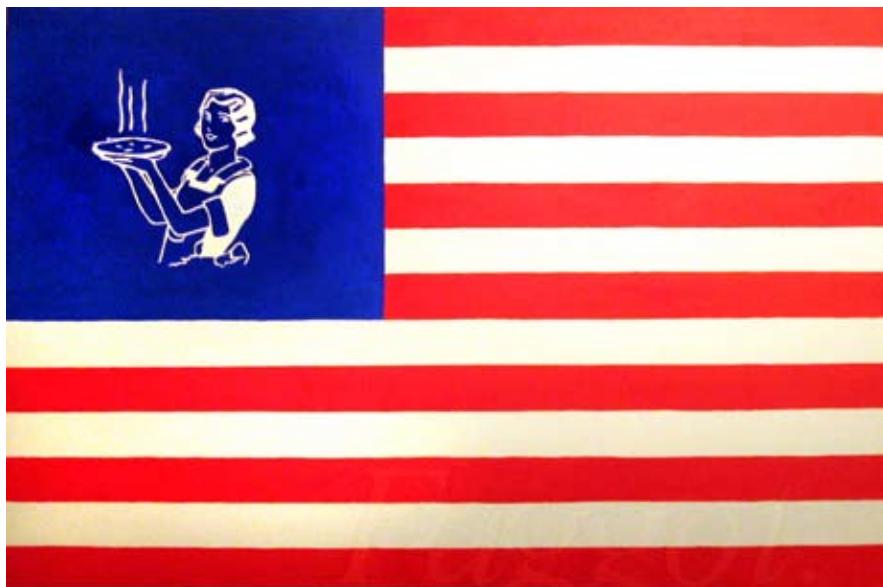
Michael MCGLINCHEY

mcglinmp@email.uc.edu

"My piece is a comment about America's traditional values and the prejudices that often show through smokescreen of freedom and equality."

Michael McGlinchey is a 21 year old Fine Art major at UC/DAAP. He believes contemporary art is moving away from socio-political concepts, and therefore finds the SOS ART show a refreshing step in the right direction.

Mom's Apple Pie
oil on canvas, 24"x36"



Sandy MCKNIGHT

belladonnablu@hotmail.com

"I have been inspired by the Hebrew people to remind through my work all races of what man is capable of. We as humans seem to think it is all right to kill in the name of faith or flag. We try to forget and act like if these monstrosities never happened. The true history of the USA is not being taught to children, causing nations to become extinct and the holocaust is forgotten allowing murder to become a part of everyday's life in Jerusalem."

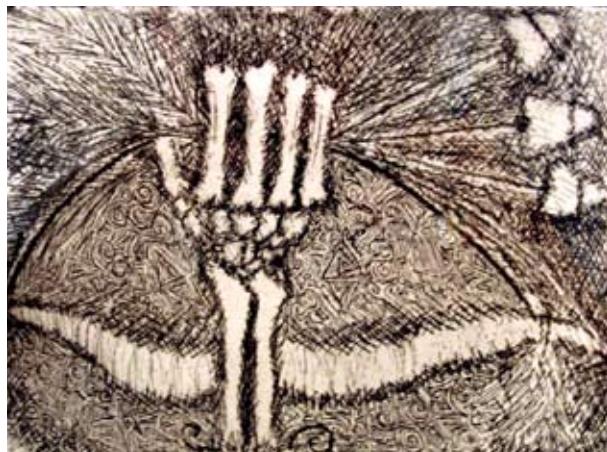
Sandy McKnight is a BFA student at Northern Kentucky University majoring in ceramic sculpture. She spends most of her days and nights dreaming, living, breathing, in studio.

Genocide

print, 18"x30"

Holocaust

ceramic sculpture, 39"x36"x36"

**Joe MEISER**

joemeiser@yahoo.com; www.joemeiser.com

"This work questions the psychology which led to the Iraq invasion. Sonny reenacts a preemptive strike on a snake lying outside of her house while a costumed figure shadowboxes in the basement. The juxtaposition of Sonny's gentle demeanor with the shadowboxer's dance of aggressiveness is intended to provoke thoughts about the duplicity of the American government."

Joe Meiser obtained an MFA from Ohio University (June 2006). His thesis investigated transcendent experience, and the establishment of an inclusive spiritual vision. For his thesis, Joe conducted research examining near-death experiences, world religions, and the transcendent aspects of competitive boxing.

Sonny and the Snake

video



C. Pic MICHEL

picart@fuse.net

"The Spiral Peace Mandala', an interactive art piece, reflects and amplifies peaceful energy through use of color in paint and fabric on spiral construction. 'Circulating Aum' weaves the symbol for creation into an abstract of fields, water, and swirling air masses from the perspective of high above the earth. Reminding: as above, so below."

A professional artist since 1978 with roots in marketing research, graphic design and advertising, C. Pic Michel has spent the last 20 years recovering from the use of art to fool the mind. She is dedicated to sharing art as a subtle yet powerful teacher of the incredible creative abilities of all people. She does this through her own abstract creations as well as teaching life skills through art with children and as a spiritual practice for adults.

Spiral Peace Mandala
paper mache, fabric, paint, 48" round

Circulating Aum
acrylic on canvas, 16"x20"

Michelle MILLER

michellemiller@graffiti.net

"My installation is about recognizing potential and working hard to achieve a vision."

Michelle Miller received her BFA in Sculpture from DAAP/University of Cincinnati. Michelle is perpetually inspired to transform ordinary everyday objects into beautiful new creations..

Batteries Not Included (also shown, detail)
mixed media installation



Paul MITCHELL

paulmitch@fuse.net

“American workers have seen their health and retirement benefits disappear as companies compete in a global economy.”

In 2004 and after a 30 year career with the City of Cincinnati, Paul Mitchell began working as a full time professional artist. His art is based on his life experiences in the workplace.

Empty Promises

ceramic, 24"x18"x18"

**Donald NESBITT**

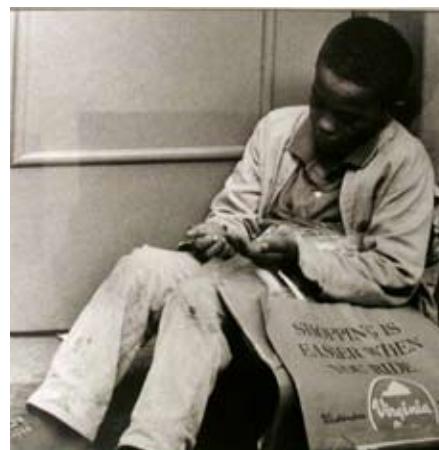
neskort@eos.net

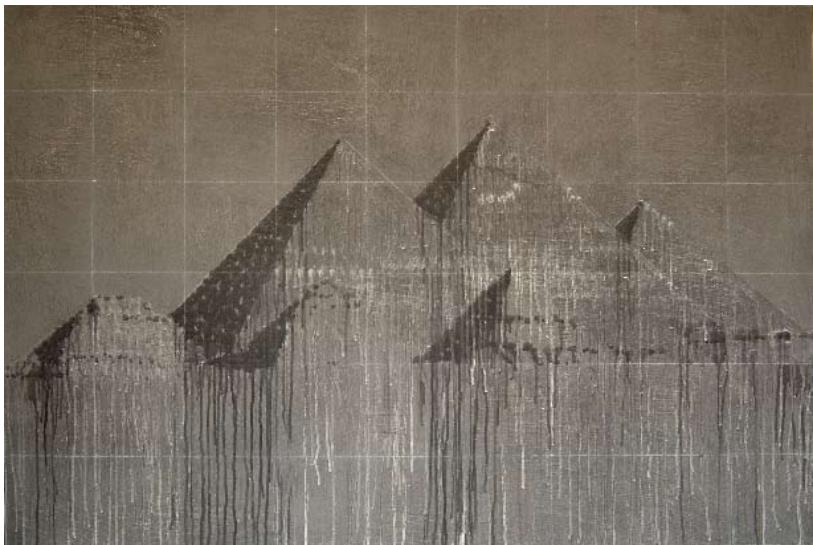
“My photographs are comments on the lives of our inner city children. From decades of mediocre education, sub standard housing and zero opportunities, they are guaranteed no part in the ‘American Dream’ and will never have a ‘Ticket to Ride’.”

Donald Nesbitt, Art Academy of Cincinnati and UC (BS in Design); Professional Baseball player for 3 years (Cincinnati Reds); Graphic Designer in Cincinnati for 32 years; currently retired, printing from a large archive of B & W negatives and color slides; seeking exhibitions.

Inner City Entrepreneurial Opportunities
b&w photograph, 14"x18"

Saving for a Ticket to Ride
b&w photograph, 16"x16"





Kurt NICAISE

knicaise@fuse.net

“Between Earth and Sky 1: Standing as a symbol of social order and political stability for millennia, the slow disintegration of the Pyramids of Giza remind us of the inevitable passage of our own perceived greatness. ‘Phoenix’: From church burnings to car bombs to scorched earth warfare, fire has infused despair and forced re-emergence in peoples. This piece speaks of the polarity of the human spirit; its instinct for survival countered by fear of the unknown.”



Kurt Nicaise, a visual artist, lives and works in Covington, KY. Inspiration for his drawings and paintings come from the land, and our place within its environment. Kurt has exhibited his work regionally, nationally, and internationally, and has received several recognitions.

Between Earth and Sky 1

lime and black colorant on ash-coated paper, 39"x56"

Phoenix

ash, glass, water, light, 28"x30"x30"

Carrie NIXON

carpe.diem@fuse.net

“My paintings came from the realization that my Drawing students at UC are the same age as the US soldiers being blown up in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. My students, for whatever reason, were able to avoid going into the military, but how many young lives are being destroyed by our insistence on global expansion?”

Carrie M. Nixon focuses on figurative drawings and paintings; she has exhibited frequently in the Midwest and Northeast. Carrie's "Cannon Fodder" series, depicts her University of Cincinnati students, and expresses her sadness about the cheap value our culture places on human life.

Andy, Dave, & Kristin (Cannon Fodder Series)
oil & colored pencil on birch, 42"x60"

Amalia and John (Cannon Fodder Series)
oil on linen, 30"x40"



Jamie OBERSCHLAKE

oberschlake@excite.com

"My painting is a comment on the small, seemingly helpless individual in our society."

For several years Jamie Oberschlake worked as an illustrator for mostly horror fiction publications, including the World Fantasy Award winning title, *The Throne of Bones* by the late Brian McNaughton. Jamie now prefers to use more personal subject matters in larger, more ambitious paintings and sculptures. He is completing an MFA at UC.

Meat

oil on masonite, 48"x48"

**Kristen OLSEN**

kristeno23@yahoo.com

"My painting is a take on Frida Kahlo's 'Roots'. It includes photos from the Afghan landscape with US soldiers. The girl in it represents the everyday person, her 'roots' searching to plant themselves, but the soil has become barren. Symbols represent what is being taken away to fund the war: book-education, flower-environment, circled soldier- lives of young men and women. Soldiers are scouting, while President Bush is only looking over the right side at the beautiful landscape!!"

Kristen Olsen, born in Los Angeles, CA, 1984, moved to NE Ohio. Before college she served in AmeriCorps *NCCC. Kristen is currently pursuing an Art History/Fine Arts major at UC and plans to obtain a Master's degree in Art Therapy.

Diminishing Roots

mixed media on masonite, 35"x49"



Mark PATSFALL

mpginc@iac.net

"Evolution.....Revolution...a fish fossil in the digital age..."."

Mark Patsfall; DOB: April 17, 1949; Birthplace: Milwaukee, WI. Two daughters, one son. Artist, printmaker, publisher. Vietnam veteran, earned an MFA at UC (1979). Founded Clay Street Press, Inc. (1981) in Over the Rhine. Worked with many local, national and international artists in the creation of fine art original prints and multiples. From 1983 – 2000, worked with artist Nam June Paik as designer of sculptures, exhibitions and public projects. In November 2004, opened own gallery at the press.

Evolution, Revolution
video and fossil, 18" x 24" x 3"

Thomas PHELPS

4137 Paddock Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45229

"My work poses the question: "How many US military casualties will there be from the conflict in Iraq?" (Casualty = a military person lost through death, wounds, injury, sickness, POW, missing in action, combat fatigue, internment, AWOL, ...)."

Thomas R. Phelps, born Cincinnati, OH, is a founding member of the NeoAncestral artists collective movement. He is a mixed media/installation artist whose work reflects various aspects of the human condition.

Casualties (A)
mixed media installation, 80" x 47" x 7"



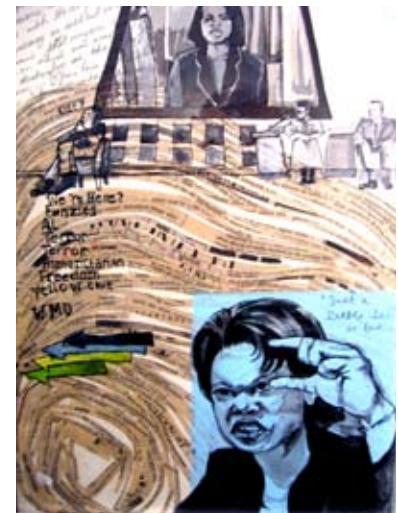
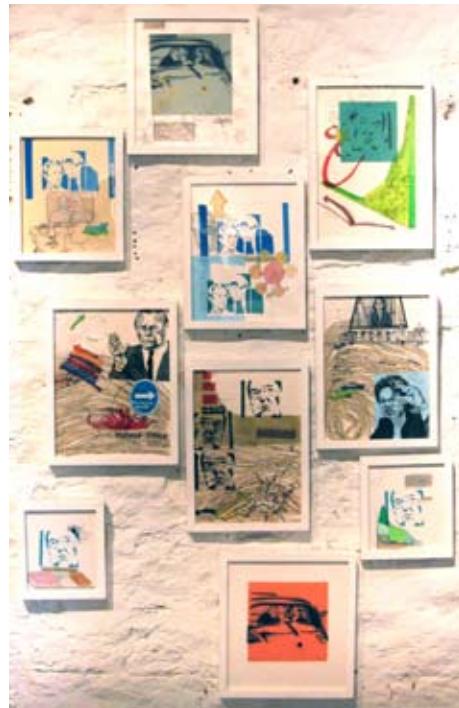
Jennifer PURDUM

vonda300@yahoo.com

"This series of prints and ink drawings were in response to images, text from papers, and mass media. The repetition, spin, and entertainment that is so often created by the print and 24 hour news was an inspiration for the series of journal-like images. The news following the disaster of hurricane Katrina had a special influence on this group of images."

Jennifer Purdum, born 1975, in Wooster, OH, graduated from UC (2001) with a BFA, and from American University, Washington, DC (2003) with a MFA. Jennifer has exhibited in and around Washington, DC, Cincinnati, OH and the New Orleans area. She lived and taught drawing and painting in New Orleans, LA, for 2 years and just relocated back to Cincinnati.

Media Cluster (also shown, detail)
mixed media, 10 pieces, 45"x45" (aggregate)

**Matt REED**

mrmatthewreed@hotmail.com

"My drawing is a take on Goya's print, 'The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters', his reaction to the events of the late 18th Century (war, religious hypocrisy, Spanish Inquisition, etc.). As the title suggests, I am asserting that mankind's reason is still sleeping and that our times are insane; also that I am outraged with a war based on greed, started with lies, and continuing, despite the fact that all Iraqi factions (including those the U.S. is backing) want us to leave."

Matt Reed is an artist, educator, and radical leftist currently living in Cincinnati, OH. His work has appeared in galleries in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Louisville, Los Angeles, and Munich. His illustrations have been used for magazines, comic books, t-shirts, and music album covers.

Reason Is Still Sleeping
pen and ink, 22"x18"



Wolfgang A. RITSCHEL

ritschelart@hotmail.com

"In 'The culprit: I address the injustice and crime occurring in many parts of the world, mostly Africa, where often entire ethnic populations suffer from violence and hunger. Why? Ethnic and religious hatreds, power struggle, oil interests, foreign interests? 'What Now – Katrina: Empty Words Again' mirrors the present Administration's incompetence and indifference towards Homeland Security and FEMA."



"Wolfgang Ritschel studied fine arts, philosophy, pharmacy and medicine. A successful medical scientist, he left academia in the mid-90's to become a full-time artist. He has exhibited extensively in the USA, Europe and South America. His work is in many museums, public and private collections. He is an Emeritus Professor at UC.

The Culprit: Hatred, Power, and Oil
acrylic, 40"x37"

What Now? – Katrina: Empty Words Again
acrylic, 22"x31"

Rick ROBICK

dalirama@prodigy.net

"In search of the serenity of the deep blue sea."

Rick Robick is a peace-loving multi-media artist.

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea
oil and mixed media on metal, 70"x47"



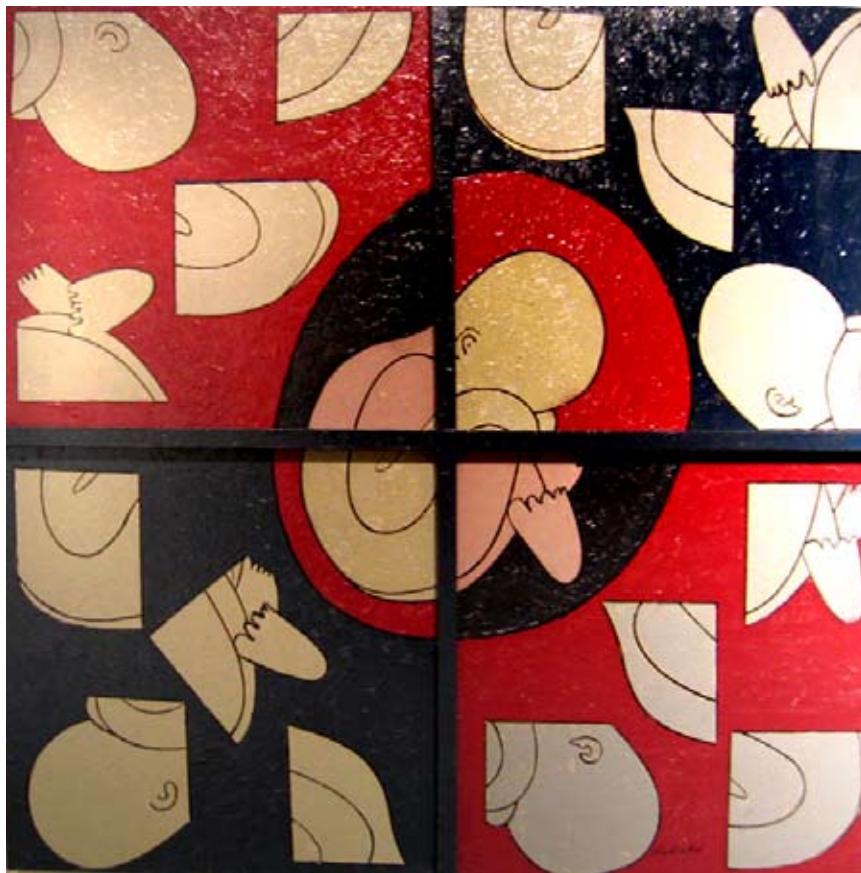
SCATTERBRAIN

"Human Trafficking/Sexual Slavery is a significant problem in contemporary society, and not just in the 3rd World. Amnesty International estimates that 7000 individuals are trafficked into the US each year."

Scatterbrain is an installation group that came together at UC/DAAP's Fine Art program in 2003. Its members are Bekka Sage, Dave Cobb, Kristin Rose, Elizabeth Otten and Suzanne Kehr.

Slavery Still Exists

mixed media video installation, 96"x96"x60"



William SCHICKEL

maschickel@aol.com

"My painting reflects my view of the destruction of the person in the womb by abortion as an extension of Christ crucifixion."

William Schickel. Self employed artist and designer for 60 years. Multimedia painting, sculpture, environment design, stained glass. Commissioned work nationally. Museum and gallery showings nationally. AIH gold medal award. Notre Dame University Lauds award.

Crucifixion

acrylic on canvas, 36"x36"



Senja SEARLE
ssearle2002@yahoo.com

"This piece is meant to be a cynical comment on the rise and fall of the popularity of 'Americas' decision to go to war. The daisies represent all people involved. I am grateful for the freedom of speech that allows all Americans the right to voice their approval or disapproval of those decisions. The popularity of wartime actions is often based on who the public believes to be 'winning'; we often misjudge the scorecard using body count."

Senja Searle grew up in a family that appreciated art. She lived in both the Midwest and the West coast. Her experiences and surroundings had a huge impact on her art. Senja is currently a student at UC and plans to teach to blooming artists in the future.

Garnished Grenade
steel, live flowers, acrylic, 36"x36"

Jim SHUPERT
jshupert@pps-inc.com

"My piece is a war poem/document obtained from mining the Internet using war words. The Internet is thus treated as our collective conscious/unconscious, and the resulting poem/document, as a public collaborative reflection."

Jim Shupert is a Visual Artist who has been working in the areas of painting, television and computer generated art for more than 20 years.

The 100 Samples of War
stack of prints, each 10"x11"

i
Googled™
war

this is what was returned,
and processed into one infinitely
long poem for peace

SHUPERT.COM

one world one people

Mitchell SIPUS

mitchell_sipus@yahoo.com

"Inadequate housing deprives the majority of the world population of opportunities for economic advancement. While these populations struggle for adequate infrastructure, Western economies subvert the individual by means of consumerist values and corrupt the values of community and diversity."

Mitchell Sipus: BFA drawing, Art Academy of Cincinnati; currently enrolled in MS Architecture and Masters of Community Planning, UC. Research emphasis: Historic Preservation and International Development.

Global House (also shown, detail)
coke cans, concrete, video, 30"x30"x30"

**J. Michael SKAGGS**

rohoboz@aol.com

"Twin Memorials Strange Fruit" was inspired by the death of Tim Thomas, April 7, 2001. It contrasts the small, simple, spontaneously erected memorial to his death with the neighboring imposing Memorial to Police officers who lost their lives on active duty since 1846. When Thomas, an unarmed young man, lost his life at the hands of a Cincinnati Police Officer, I thought of the song Strange Fruit by Billie Holiday, from a poem by Lewis Allan."

J. Michael Skaggs, adjunct instructor at NKU, is the owner of Roho Photo Gallery. He is a Visual Sociologist who photographs peace and justice themes in documentary. His exhibits have included MLK Jr. 30th Anniversary March on Washington - 1993, Invisible Man - 1995, Americans - 2002, Kentucky International - 2004.

Twin Memorials Strange Fruit
b&w photograph, 6'x8'



Sandra SMALL

sandra.small@insightbb.com

"The US aggression in Iraq has fundamentally changed what our country stands for. I am deeply disappointed and quite fearful about our freedoms and future."

Sandra Small, a psychologist in private practice for many years, also taught psychology and related courses at universities in the USA and abroad. After retiring, Sandra began pursuing her life-long interest in art, taking painting classes in Cincinnati and New Mexico, where she now lives part time. She is represented by the Studio Estevanne in Albuquerque, NM.

Strategic Bombing, Limited Collateral Damage
mixed media, 38" x 24" x 8"

Stacey SMITH

yeatssmith@netscape.net

"My quilt explores humanity's relationship with the natural environment- exploitative, manipulative, violent. It reflects how trees are viewed and treated as commodities with little regard to their intrinsic and vital value. Hopefully, humanity's insensitive, aggressive and destructive attitude will change before they're all gone".

Stacey Smith has always been inspired by the dynamic organic forms, the vibrant colors, and the transformational rich relationships embedded in the natural world. She studied these intricate processes of the environment at the university but was disappointed by the lack of compassion and respect she encountered. Not wanting to perpetuate this war raging between the natural world and humanity she resorted to quilting as a forum for dialogue.

The Sound of Saws
fiber, 45" x 45"



Tim STEGMAIER

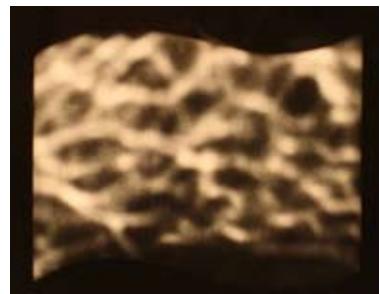
tim@timstegmaier.com

"Human beings are not indebted to their nation of origin for the gift of life. Their natural inclination to be free is built into their make up. To respect one's Nature is to begin to understand peace. US citizens have been taught that freedom is always something to die for. MAN-ipulation for political power and economic gain is suspect. In the end, Nature wins."

Tim Stegmaier grew up in Cincinnati and received a BFA from Ohio U. (1988). After 15 years as a practicing artist in Chicago he recently moved back to Cincinnati. Tim is a well recognized diversified artist in the visual and the performing arts. He has showed his art and featured his poetry in Chicago and locally. He has also performed professionally as an African dancer in the Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theater.

Suspicious Package/World Trade
mixed media sculpture, 51"x24"x24"

Flag of No Nation
photograph, 11"x14"

**Joe STONER**

joestoner@fuse.net

"The title of my photograph is from the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme that ends with: '...and all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again'. Things can be tipped beyond a point of no return and the consequential breakage can never be properly repaired. This applies to objects, systems (environmental, political, and social) and sometimes people. Some experts are concerned that global warming is moving the environment to a tipping point."

Joe Stoner has been experimenting with photography, digital graphics, and fine art digital printing (mainly giclee) for over 20 years. His works are in corporate and private collections. Joe also prints for other artists.

... and all the king's men ...
photograph, archival ink on paper, 22"x28"



Emily STORCH
emilystorch@earthlink.net

"My painting represents children in front of an ambiguous landscape, a sort of wasteland that could be the world of future generations if in fact we nuke ourselves into oblivion."

Emily Storch, born in Cincinnati, is a current student in Fine Arts at UC/DAAP. .

Irradiated Daycare
oil on canvas, 18"x42"

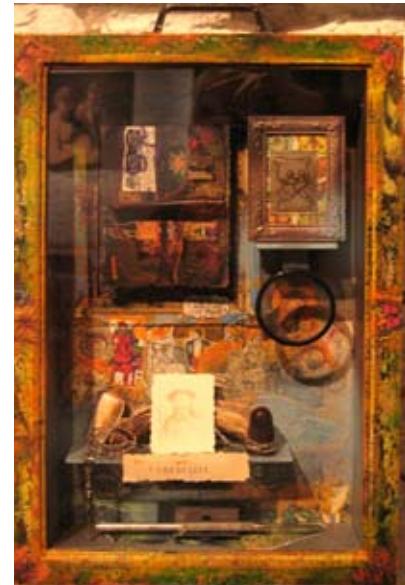
Kurt STORCH
rstorch1@netzero.net

"Sometimes an object or a fragment of an object reveals itself as something different. Put together such objects/fragments tell a tale. My two boxes are small portable altarpieces of Faith and Chaos, wherein Faith is actually an evolutionary tendency brought about as much by Chaos as by anything else; being as such is no less potent than if Faith were brought about by an omnipotent being."

Kurt Storch is a local artist working as a professional picture framer while selling his work at juried and gallery shows. Kurt has long since given up all hope of ever amounting to anything more than a sack of warm shit; he hopes to be forgotten long before he dies...

Imposture, Deception...
mixed media, 10"x15"x4"

Credulity
mixed media, 10"x15"x4"



Steve SUNDERLAND

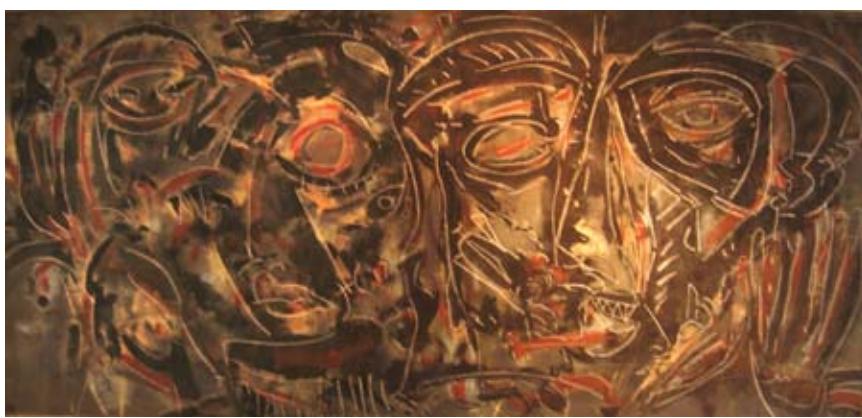
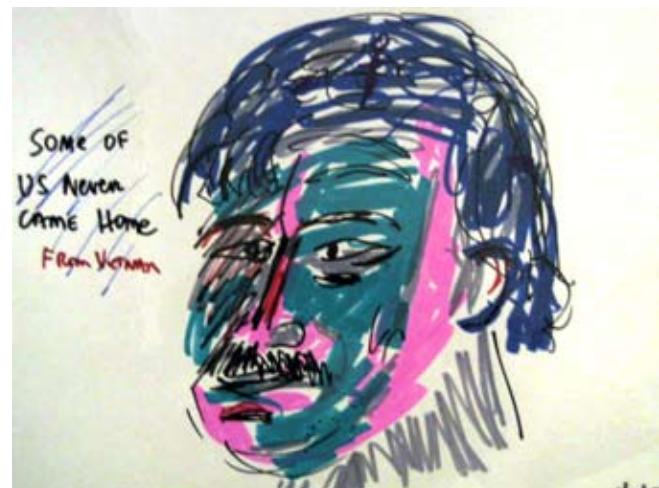
sundersc@email.uc.edu

"My drawings are a result of my participation in Thich Nhat Hahn's conference for Viet Nam vets, Viet Nam protestors and other vets of American wars. I am constantly moved by the stories of coping and reconciliation."

Steve Sunderland is committed to full time peace work as director of the Peace Village, and professor of educational foundations and peace studies at UC. To Steve, peace means anti-war, reducing hunger, including people with disabilities, and respecting all religions. Steve is recipient of the 'Ghandi, King, Ikeda' award from the Freedom Center and of a 'Social Justice' award from the Council on American-Islam Relations.

Vet's Memories
markers, 14"x11"

Some of Us Never Came Home
markers, 14"x11"



Timothy M. TATMAN
(513) 564-0911

"A riot is a spontaneous outburst; a war is subject to advanced planning.' Richard Nixon (1967). 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of peace must be constructed.' Author unknown."

Timothy M. Tatman, aka A. Timo. T. American. Age 51. Human.

ARIOTISA
oil and mixed media, 23"x23"

Since Wars Begin
oil and mixed media, 23"x23"

Worried
oil and mixed media, 48"x96"



Kim Rae TAYLOR

kimraetaylor@aol.com

"The word "save" is used a great deal in relation to issues like war, religion, environment, economy, even sex. We're supposed to save for retirement, save Iraq, get saved, save fuel, save ourselves, save the world..."

Kim Rae Taylor is a painter who graduated (June 2006) with an MFA from the University of Cincinnati.

Save

oil and mixed media on wood, 6"x6"x4"

Derek TOEBBE

toebbebear@hotmail.com

"My mixed media pieces are comments on personal revelations I have had about myself, the place where I live, and the crucial role people play in their own fates when applied to philosophical issues."

Derek Toebbe. 1999 graduate of Covington Catholic. BFA, 2005, NKU. Two-time NKU Art Department scholarship winner.

The Space Between

mixed media, 9"x48"

Homo Novus

mixed media, 9"x32"

Intelligent Design

mixed media, 20"x8"



Tom TOWHEY

towhey@msn.com

"My painting is a look at the beautiful world facing its demise due to ignorance, greed and apathy. It depicts Heads of States and elected officials embroiled in the perverse act of positioning & insuring their own personal gains, via the spoils of war. It also depicts that everything is for sale and that laws of the land are in place only to control the masses. The long twisted title satirizes the way our government officials distort the truth, lie and insult our intelligence."

Tom Towhey, born in Cincinnati, OH, 1958, currently lives and works in Cincinnati. Tom is a painter who works mainly in oil, in a variety of styles. He briefly attended classes at both the Art Academy and UC but he is mainly self-taught. His works are in various collections worldwide.

I wish to submit Bill 666 to the Senate Floor for a vote, as follows... Exhume the Hounds of War- Anoint Their Merciless Souls - Unleash a Hell on Earth -...
oil on canvas, 48" x 48"

**Eric TRIANTAFILLOU**

etriantafillou@yahoo.com

"This is a series about bombs, things we produce in this country and then drop elsewhere."

Eric Triantafillou originally from Cincinnati, currently lives in Chicago where he just earned an MFA from its Art Institute.

Cluster Bomb

screenprint, 18" x 24"

Boy Was I Mad

screenprint, 18" x 24"

Endre's Dream

screenprint, 18" x 24"



Jennifer USTICK

jeustick@fuse.net

"My piece comments on the statement often made about people of different racial backgrounds, that one 'cannot tell them apart.' It also uses the literal versions of colors absurdly assigned to their skin tones throughout the world: black, white, yellow, and red."

Jennifer Ustick teaches Fine Art at Miami University in Hamilton, OH. She earned her MFA from UC in 2005 and her BFA from the Art Academy in 2000. Her primary media are drawing and painting, but she also works with textiles, video animation, and performance.

They All Look the Same: Value/Color
linoleum block print and acrylic on paper, 50"x38"

VISIONARIES & VOICES

visvoi@earthlink.net

"Visionaries & Voices is a community-minded studio for artists with disabilities located in Essex Studios in Walnut Hills. V&V's mission is to provide a nurturing home-base for artists with disabilities to grow and succeed. V&V values a world in which artists with disabilities not only create and share their works of art, but also are given the chance to show the community at large what it means to be creative and alive without limits."

Robert BOREMSKI

"My painting is an outsider-artist's rendering of a farm scene, primitive, peaceful, bucolic."

Robert Boremski comes to V&V once a week. His imagery ranges from bucolic scenes to cityscapes and everything in between. Robert has collaborated on paintings with local artist Tony Dotson.

Farm

acrylic on wood, 24"x36"



VISIONARIES & VOICES

visvoi@earthlink.net

Courtney COOPER

"My painting depicts the American Flag surrounded by a large variety of rules, including 'Don't eat like a pig at Christmas time'."

Courtney Cooper started coming to V&V in early 2004. His work ranges from intricate drawings of landmarks in Cincinnati to water-color portraits of super heroes. When not making art, Courtney works at the Kroger in Walnut Hills, and at the York Street Café in Newport, KY.

American Flag Rules
acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24"



VISIONARIES & VOICES

visvoi@earthlink.net

Lynne TOPITS

"My painting, in the folk art style, represents a peaceful scene with children in the yard of a cottage surrounded by multi-colored animals."

Lynne Topits is a folk artist who comes to V&V with help from the United Cerebral Palsy Center of Greater Cincinnati. Lynne's religion plays an important role in her art.

Joy
acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24"



Carole WINTERS

carole.winters@stmediagroup.com

“Torture Nightmare” was in response to horrors going on somewhere in the world in 1985. Now it’s about Abu Ghraib. I started ‘The Butterfly Ballot’ soon after “election” day and have been working on it ever since. Who knew that the exercise in sheer power that was the 2000 election would have resulted in so much death and destruction? Evil has many faces.”

Carole Winters graduated with a degree in art from Morehead State University in eastern Kentucky. Her work has been exhibited in many local and regional shows over the years while she worked as a graphic designer at F&W Publications and ST Media Group. She is currently associate publisher of Visual Merchandising and Store Design magazine and a news junkie.

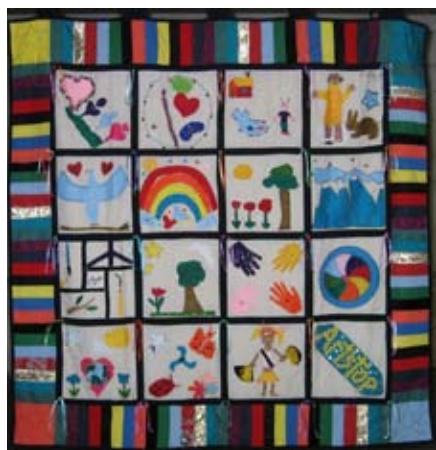
Torture Nightmare
watercolor, graphite, 28" x 23"

The Butterfly Ballot
watercolor, graphite, 28" x 23"

Children SOS ART

Starting in 2005, schools have been invited to participate in SOS ART in order to create a children's component to the event and add children's perspectives and voices on peace and justice. Art teachers willing to participate in the project are asked to engage their school children during the year to think about issues of peace and justice and to help them provide their own visual statements. Private and public schools of various socio-economic backgrounds and children of all grades are included. In addition to adding children's voices to the event, children SOS ART presents an opportunity to schools, school children and their parents to view the entire show, participate in the 2 weeks event and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on peace and justice.

In 2006, 3 schools and 2 after school programs participated. Below are succinct information provided by the respective art teachers about the activity and its outcome. Selected pictures of the art produced and exhibited during SOS ART are shown in the following pages.



The Carnegie Visual + Performing Arts Center's ARTSTOP Program

After the September 11th tragedy, approximately 30 kids, ages 5-15, worked under the guidance of art teacher Judy Sanders and with help from the Islamic Center and quilter Nicki Meyer to produce a quilt. The kids studied Islamic Culture through the arts (including music, dance, and visual art) and created a quilt, the front of which consisted of their depictions of the meaning of peace and the back of which represented henna hand designs and words of peace translated into Arabic. They also wrote poems about their own concepts of peace.



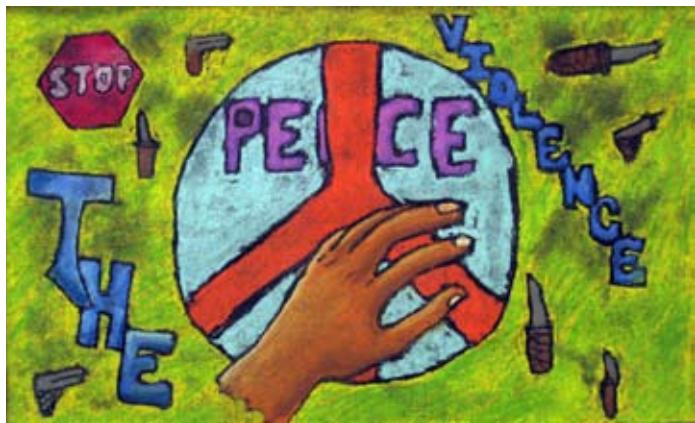
Edgewood Middle School, Trenton, OH

Sixth graders from Edgewood Middle School in Trenton created large-scale artworks based on the theme of peace. Art teacher Jenn Acus-Smith presented students with art examples, articles, and discussion topics to help them brainstorm. Students worked together to determine media and construction steps needed, incorporating the meaning of peace in their own lives. The collaborative artwork showed variety and creativity: a painted mural with hidden symbols of peace, a mandala-esque sculpture with photographs and words, a large-scale papier mache globe with students' handprints and peace messages, and a large wooden piece dotted with clay hearts, and peace-related articles.



Pace High School

Art Teacher Matt Reed, worked with a handful of interested students grades 9 to 12. He asked them to consider the meaning of the words "Peace" and "Justice" and to create art pieces that conveyed a message involving "Peace and Justice." Three students completed the project and were included in the show, Keshawn Johnson, Tyria Evans, and Constance Myles. The subject matter and choice of media was left up to each student's creativity.



Bond Hill Recreation Center

Community Center Director Lauri Aultman worked with K-6th grade students in the After-School Day Camp program at Bond Hill Recreation Center. The students drew pictures about what gives them peace. They also created individual paper plate peace signs and worked on two collaborative dream catcher peace signs. Each student included beads, feathers, and a written wish for whatever they thought would bring peace to Bond Hill. Their wishes included "hot fries," "more sleep," and "no more shootings."



Winton Woods High School

Three classes of Introduction to Art at Winton Woods high school created, under the guidance of art teacher Stephen Smith, artwork for the SOS Peace and Justice project. These classes included students from Freshman through Senior grades. Each class created its own theme and variation on the topic. One class used the idea of a peace sign and spray painted silhouettes of the sign on boards, and painted a variety of messages across them. Another class developed the idea of "joining hands for peace," and created papier mache hand sculptures. The third class did drawings and paintings inspired by Pop Art, using popular imagery related to America, George Bush, the war in Iraq, and other related topics.



PHOTO: ERIC CHAPMAN

Saad Ghosn shows a piece of his own work, "Ryan for President," that will appear in this year's S.O.S. Art.

The Beauty of Strife

S.O.S. Art shows that creativity can produce more than pretty things

BY MARGO PIERCE

Art as an expression of political and social issues won't likely be found in a gallery on Main Street. But that's exactly what should be hanging on the walls if an artist is involved in her or his community, according to Saad Ghosn, a pathologist, University of Cincinnati professor and self-taught artist.

During the course of organizing art shows at the medical library, Ghosn came in contact with quite a few local artists. The notion of political expression in art entered their conversations during the 2001 uprising and riot.

"Many of (these artists) are more on the progressive side," he says. "Some of them were living downtown and were very critical of what was happening. I kept asking, 'How come none of this transpires in your work?' I really felt that, as an artist, if you live these problems and art is an expression of yourself, how come this important part isn't coming through?"

An obvious factor is salability for a working artist.

"More and more in our society, there is no venue for political expression in art," Ghosn says. "There's no venue for social expression because probably our society doesn't want it. It's more threatening. Galleries would not show it, people would not buy it."

"People say, 'We don't want to worry about politics and social issues, and art is really to be looked at and beautiful.' But it misses the point of expression. I became very interested in art as an expression of socio-political issues."

'We get stronger'

Enter *Save Our Souls (S.O.S.) Art*, "an art show of socio-political expression for peace and justice" started by Ghosn as a three-day art exhibit at Brighton's Mockbee building in 2003. Almost 50 artists participated the first year.

Four years later the two-week event, still at The

Mockbee, boasts more than 200 artists, 300 children from seven different schools, a collection of poetry and sketches in addition to poetry readings, live music performances, documentaries and discussion groups.

What's the goal of such a multifaceted event? To get people thinking and talking about issues of peace and justice, Ghosn says.

The broad theme results in a variety of interpretations by the artists and poets who responded to the open call for submissions. A few of the past issues addressed in visual form include animal rights, gambling, Native American rights, police violence, post-traumatic stress disorder, slavery, torture and abortion — both pro-choice and anti-choice.

The national debate over the U.S. war in Iraq has been a dominant theme in the most recent shows, according to Ghosn. As a U.S. citizen originally from Lebanon, he's concerned about the direction the government and country are taking.

"It's not the country I dreamed of," he says.

The purpose of *S.O.S. Art* isn't to persuade pro-war advocates to change their minds. Instead Ghosn wants to build support for peace and justice.

"Someone who is 100 percent pro-Bush or for the war in Iraq is not going to be dissuaded by anything," he says. "There isn't any room for dialogue by looking at this (exhibit). The real importance is to create a community of people.

"We were so isolated when I started all of this. We need to come together. We need to show our work together. We need to strengthen our voice, to sharpen it. As a group, we get stronger. That's the purpose of *S.O.S. Art*."

The self-titled peace activist says he's willing to use whatever means he has at his disposal to effect change, including art, poetry and dialogue. He's also building a

library of the art and poetry prepared for each show to preserve a snapshot of socio-political history.

At his own expense, Ghosn publishes a collection of the art from the previous year in a bound volume as a gift to the visual artists. He also compiles a book of the original poetry and drawings in time for the opening of each *S.O.S. Art*.

'What art brings'

This year's poetry includes three original pieces by Jazz aficionado Oscar Treadwell. Ghosn was initially skeptical, suspecting someone else was using Treadwell's name.

"I sent a call to poets, and he sent me his poems," Ghosn says. "I contacted him, and I found out that it was him. This was in February. He submitted four poems, and we were accepting up to three. I called him right after that, said, 'We're using three of your poems,' and he was so excited."

The day Ghosn called to schedule Treadwell's reading, he learned about his death the night before. Although saddened by Treadwell's passing, Ghosn is looking forward to publishing what could be the final public works about peace and justice from a poet he admires.

Determined to remain true to the mission of *S.O.S. Art*, Ghosn will continue to foot most of the bill until he retires. Then he hopes to devote all of his time to creating a nonprofit organization that will sup-

port his dream of using art as a vehicle for social dialogue.

"The beauty of art and dealing with all of this is the diversity of expression, the diversity of views," he says. "Anyone who becomes sensitive to art could never ever agree with what our president says — 'With me or against me' — because you realize that, when you have 20 different people, you have 20 different nuances to a situation. It cannot be just one way or that way."

"That's what art brings. Art brings nuances, art brings tolerances, the appre-

"Art brings nuances, art brings tolerances, the appreciation that it's beautiful and it's your own way of being beautiful."

— *S.O.S. Art* organizer Saad Ghosn

ciation that it's beautiful and it's your own way of being beautiful. You're bringing something to the table. I really think art has a lot of value to make people appreciate others, to create the dialogue, to appreciate diversity, to be tolerant, to bring also a spiritual connection to the value in this world."

S.O.S. ART opens April 21 and runs through May 7. For gallery, reading, discussion and event times, contact Gary Gaffney at gaffney@artacademy.edu or Saad Ghosn at saad.ghosn@uc.edu.

BEST POLITICAL ART

The Save Our Souls (*S.O.S.*) art exhibition makes current political events the theme of visual art and poetry. Instead of separating the artistic experience from everyday life and putting it into a hermetically sealed gallery, exhibition founder and curator Saad Ghosn wants artists and the public to discuss reality and art together. This year the event will move to the Cincinnati Art Academy building in Over-the-Rhine (May 25-June 3), where *S.O.S.* will try to retain its urban roots and grit.

SUPERSIZE PICK

