



At the Arboretum

EXHIBITION,
SALE & GALA

2016

Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 7p.m.

Knippenberg Center for Education
Laurelwood Arboretum
725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne, New Jersey

WELCOME



*What could be said about me—a man to whom only his painting matters?
And of course his garden and his flowers as well.*
— Claude Monet

This weekend we bring together both things beloved by Monet—gardens and art. *Art at the Arboretum* is an opportunity to discover the work of distinguished artists in the setting of beautiful Laurelwood Arboretum. This is the first major fundraising event for Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum. The money we raise will help us continue to maintain and enhance our beloved park and host a full menu of programs and activities for nature lovers of all ages.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make *Art at the Arboretum* a success—Chairpersons Leslie and Stuart Reiser, the Art Gala Committee, the Board of Directors of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, and our ever-supportive Mayor Christopher Vergano. Thank you, too, to all the financial supporters of this event and the advertisers in this journal whose contributions are so essential to our ongoing efforts. Here's to art and gardens—perfect together!

Alice Moskowitz

President, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

FRIENDS OF LAURELWOOD ARBORETUM

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum was created by a group of Dorothy Knippenberg's friends who wanted to ensure that the arboretum would be preserved as a natural oasis as it transitioned to a Wayne Township public park. Gradually, this dedicated group began to collect donations and build membership. In 2003, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. When Dorothy died in 2006, the organization assumed responsibility for management of the arboretum, in accordance with an agreement with Wayne Township.

Today, FOLA is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and improve the arboretum and provide opportunities for horticultural appreciation and education through public programs and outreach activities. Membership has grown to more than 350. The organization is funded by membership dues, plant sales and donations from individuals and businesses.

The FOLA Board of Directors and Executive Director Elaine Fogerty direct the activities of more than 200 onsite and off-site volunteers. Volunteers weed, plant, prune and help beautify the arboretum. Some volunteers keep Laurelwood safe and accessible by repairing its infrastructure. Others provide tours of the arboretum or lead educational and outreach programs. Last year, volunteers contributed more than 9,633 hours, valued at an estimated \$244,004. (based on the nationally accepted volunteer hourly rate).

THE KNIPPENBERG LEGACY



John and Dorothy Knippenberg developed a love for the genus *Rhododendron* and operated their 30-acre woodland in the Pines Lakes section of Wayne, New Jersey as a commercial nursery. They called their nursery Laurelwood Gardens. Dorothy began hybridizing rhododendrons in 1955, and continued throughout her life to strive for plants with new interest and improvements, such as hardy large-leaved varieties and those with more flower substance, and later blooming periods. She was a knowledgeable horticulturalist, who encouraged others to see the beauty of rhododendrons and enjoy growing them. She and her husband, John, raised and/or hybridized approximately 50 new rhododendrons. Dorothy was responsible for naming more than twenty new cultivars, including the eight that were registered by the national and international rhododendron organizations. These hybrids included 'Blush Button,' 'Caroline Gem,' 'Hardy Giant,' 'Big Willy,' 'Burgundy Cherry,' 'Laurel Pink,' 'Laurelwood Snow Bunting' and 'Wayne Pink.'

Known throughout the country among rhododendron growers, the Knippenbergs maintained a test garden where they planted rhododendron cultivars sent to them from all over, subjected the plants to the New Jersey climate and developed cultivars for our East Coast climate. In 1960, the Knippenbergs offered to donate the entire 30 acres to the Township of Wayne to create a public park after their deaths. One condition of the agreement was that John and Dorothy could cultivate and maintain Laurelwood without restrictions as long as one might live. Dorothy expressed her vision for the site in 1964 during a visit to Laurelwood Gardens by members of the American Rhododendron Society when she stated that the property would, "become a public rhododendron park following our lifetimes."

After Dorothy's death in 2006, a formal partnership was formed between Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) and the Township of Wayne, and Laurelwood became part of the Township's park system. FOLA assumed responsibility for maintaining and improving the arboretum's horticultural inheritance.

HONORARY CHAIRPERSON

MAYOR CHRISTOPHER P. VERGANO



As a lifelong resident and Mayor of Wayne Township, I never imagined that our community could become more picturesque until I visited Laurelwood Arboretum. Its 30 acres of beautifully maintained gardens and woodland trails are simply breathtaking. This spectacular green space has a diverse wildlife population; features numerous varieties of flowers, plants and trees; provides soothing streams and ponds for visitors to relax by. In addition to all the beauty that nature has to offer, Laurelwood Arboretum is home to the Knippenberg Center for Education and the Educational Greenhouse, which offer activities and informative programs for our community to enjoy.

The arboretum was designed to ensure the following primary purposes: conservation, recreation and education. With a cooperative effort between Wayne Township and the nonprofit volunteer organization, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, I am confident that these goals will be met for decades to come. This *Art at the Arboretum* fundraiser will make an important contribution toward supporting FOLA in its efforts. I am proud to be part of the restoration and development of this botanical wonder. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our valued volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Laurelwood Arboretum, as well as the residents of Wayne Township for their interest and support of the park and its important programming.

Warm Regards,

Christopher P. Vergano

Mayor



ART AT THE ARBORETUM VOLUNTEERS

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LESLIE AND STUART REISER

Art Gala Chairpersons

There's no better way to fuse the beauty and magic of nature with the expression and creativity of art than through an experience like Art at the Arboretum, where the community at large, nature and gardening lovers along with art enthusiasts are brought together for a weekend of enjoyment at Wayne's hidden jewel – Laurelwood Arboretum.



As long time residents of Pines Lake, we have enjoyed walking through Laurelwood, as part of our our weekend exercise routine, using it as our annual backdrop for our family holiday photos, and even, on occasion relying on this beautiful park for quiet contemplation in order to recharge from the rigors of everyday life. Our love for the park and the admiration we have felt to the Knippenbergs for their generous endowment of 30 acres of trails, woods, ponds, and a variety of indigenous plant and tree species, encouraged us to get involved with the Friends of Laurelwood (FOLA), initially due to Stuart's association as its pro-bono attorney.

As art lovers and collectors, we have frequented many iconic art museums throughout the world and have often observed that much of the inspiration for the great artistic works throughout the ages has been derived from the artist's personal interpretations of magical gardens and nature itself. From impressionists to modern and abstract artists, the serenity and beauty of the natural world have served as subject matter for countless paintings and sculpture. As the famous painter, Marc Chagall, said, "Great art picks up where nature ends."

We hope that you will learn a thing or two this weekend about how to purchase art for your own collections and will be similarly inspired by the creativity and originality of the artists we have selected not only for their personal stories but for their contributions to creating lasting expressions of creativity.

Leslie and Stuart Reiser



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Music for Gala is provided by the William Paterson University Jazz Department.
Catering for the weekend events is provided by Dawn's Catering.



GUEST SPEAKER



FRANK JULIANO
Executive Director, Reeves-Reed Arboretum

As Executive Director, Frank Juliano brings innovation and community building to all aspects of Reeves-Reed Arboretum. This includes strengthening and rebranding of the arboretum's core education and horticulture programs, operations, cultivation and fundraising, as well as a more comprehensive and inclusive visual and performing arts initiative.

Prior to Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Juliano served as the Executive Director of The Hudson Valley Writers' Center, in Westchester, New York, and the Greenwich Arts Council, in Connecticut. He also spent seven years at Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in New York City.

THE ARTISTS

Read about them on the following pages

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bart DeCeglie | Cole Sternberg |
| Christopher Engel | Shane Townley |
| Andrea Geller | Alix Hallman Travis |
| Raisa Nosova | Johan Wahlstrom |
| John Sanders | Joe Waks |

Visit our website at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org



BART DeCEGLIE

Floral Park, New York

Bart DeCeglie has been an active painter and freelance illustrator for 25 years and has taught at art colleges such as Pratt Institute and the Fashion Institute of Technology. He has also led Plein Air workshops throughout New York.

DeCeglie was born in Italy and studied there until he was 17 years old. He came to New York and after finishing high school studied Illustration and painting for four years at Phoenix School of Art and Design (now Pratt Manhattan). He is currently teaching at the National Art League, UFT Queens & Manhattan Learning Centers and the Art League of Long Island. DeCeglie has returned many times to Italy to paint and study.

DeCeglie has had a successful career as a freelance commercial artist. His clients are both consumer and pharmaceutical advertising agencies. His real love is impressionism, as can be seen in his style of painting. His paintings give a feeling of serenity—quite the opposite of his energetic personality.



▲ *On Time*

Works by DeCeglie have been exhibited in Florida, Michigan, Italy, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and as far east in New York as the Hamptons. The father of five children, he and his wife have traveled extensively throughout Italy, Grand Cayman, New York State, Michigan and Florida. Living in New York, his paintings reflect the everyday lives of ordinary people.



CHRISTOPHER ENGEL

Halcottsville, New York



Christopher Engel's art education began at the Art Center College of Design, now located in Pasadena, California. He later moved to New York and studied at the Art Students League. While at the League, Engel studied with renowned abstract expressionist painter Richard Pousette Dart. During this time, he began creating works depicting the depressing and suffocating elements of the New York subway system (The Turnstyle Series). As a result of this experience, the boundaries between objective and nonobjective or realistic and abstract work became blurred.



This, Engel says, allowed him to travel down the sometimes semi-abstract, semi-realistic and symbolic path of the Turnstyle Series, which preoccupied him from 1982 until the present. The series began as a social commentary on the subways and, by extension, the conditions in society in general. As the work progressed over the years it became more abstract, symbolic and personal.

In 1982, Engel was invited by Roger Denis, curator at the well-known Hallways Gallery in Buffalo, to mount a solo show of personal autobiographical works called, "Rights of Passage." This consisted of a series of 37 pastels on sandpaper based on emotionally charged moments from his childhood. They were

executed from 1979 to 1980 in a primitive style with titles structured in a narrative sequence. In the 1980s, Engel showed in the East Village during the heydays of the art scene there. During this time, he maintained studios in Manhattan and Hoboken, New Jersey. Later in the decade, he left New York for two years to live in Seattle, Washington.

In the 1990s, Engel executed a series of 17 bronze pieces related to the paintings and etchings from the Turnstyle Series. He was invited a second time to show at Hallways. The show, called "Men in Suits," featured works by artists who work with similar economic, political and social themes. Engel is concurrently developing a website focusing on the same material.

▲ *Parade*

ANDREA GELLER

Paramus, New Jersey



Andrea Geller first picked up a brush at the age of 12 and has not put it down since. After studying painting at Cornell University for two years, she completed her undergraduate education at Parsons School of Design in New York City. Shortly after earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, she began a successful career as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer, with editorial clients such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Psychology Today*. In 2004, she earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from William Paterson University.

For Geller, painting and life go hand in hand as she balances her career as a college professor and a professional artist. Her work focuses on figures moving within landscapes alone or in relationships with others, reflecting her strong interest "in the space between people as they move." Her recent paintings, "Water Meets Land I" and "Water Meets Land II," were inspired by her experience walking Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty in the Great Salt Lake.

She exhibits widely and her work is included in numerous private collections. "Floating," a painting from her water series, was selected by US Ambassador Daniel Speckhard for inclusion in a three-year exhibition at the US Embassy in Athens, Greece.



▲ *Water Meets Land I*

RAISA NOSOVA

Hoboken, New Jersey



Raisa Nosova is a Russian-born American artist who received her formal art education from the Fashion Institute of Technology, Vesalius College in Brussels, and the Art Students League of New York.

Curiosity about various cultures and a clear perception of the world have led Nosova to encounter the world through travels to Europe, the Near East, and Southeast Asia. She shares her perceptions through her “atmosphere-capturing” paintings, which are now beginning to take an expressionistic turn.



Nosova is currently working on an upcoming solo exhibition at Bernard Cauchet Gallery in London. Her work has been exhibited in solo shows in Paris, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Newark and Montclair, New Jersey.

Nosova has been recognized by art magazines such as *Fresh Paint Magazine* and *Washington Square Review*, as well as the Monmouth Museum, the Whistler

▲ *Molle*

Museum of Art, Bakhrushin Central State Theatre Museum in Moscow, SCOPE art fair in Miami, Armory Art Center and New Jersey Institute of Technology Museum.

Raisa Nosova is a recipient of the George T. Dorsch Award 2012, Fannie Kipnes Memorial Award for Oil Painting 2014 and the N.A.W.A. 125 Years: Women in Vision Third Place Award 2015.

JOHN SANDERS

Roxbury, New York

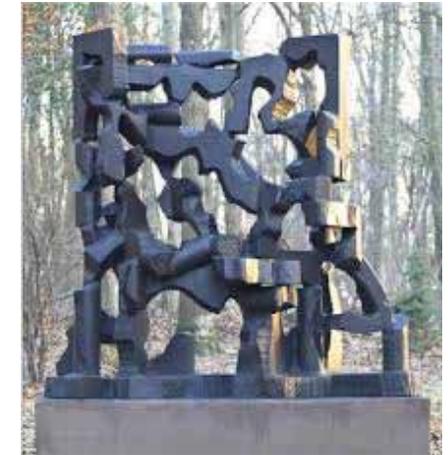
Born in New York City, J. Sanders has been a sculptor since 1968 when he was 15 years old. He began as a woodcarver and then moved on to granite and marble carving. For most of the past 40 years, he has concentrated on steel sculptures.

Sanders has created his own technique in steel, which he calls “flame-carved steel”—a direct outgrowth of his early wood and stone carvings. Flame-carved steel is executed with an oxygen-acetylene torch; it renders the same textural results in steel as one might see in carved stones.

In the past 20 years, Sanders has also been forging steel, which gives his massive steel sculptures the feeling of lightness through the rhythm and movement of the forged elements incorporated into the sculptures. He returned to wood sculpting as a means of creating models for large outdoor steel or stainless steel sculptures.

Sanders increased his range of expression during a period from 2010-2012 by incorporating a daily practice of executing pastels and other works on paper. At the same time, he has been working on wall pieces made of bronze, copper, brass, stainless steel and steel.

A graduate of Berkeley, his one-man shows include the Robert Steele Gallery, Elizabeth Harris Gallery and Max Hutchison Gallery in New York City; Osuna Gallery in Washington, D.C.; and Worth Rider Art Gallery in Berkeley, California. He has also exhibited his work in numerous group shows.



▲ *Sculpture 3*



COLE STERNBERG

Los Angeles, California



Cole Sternberg works in a range of formats including painting, installation, video, and writing. Much of his work has focused on a variety of social issues, from current human rights activism and its relationship to the law, to the environment, the media and concepts of content overload. The works tend to be subtle or subversive in nature, driven by elegant visual concepts and poetry rather than overt political statements. He is interested in the intersection between humanity and humankind and how their lack of congruity hinders social progression and development.



Sternberg has exhibited nationally and internationally, at The American University Museum in Washington, DC; El Segundo Museum of Art, El Segundo, California; Hochhaus Hansa, a Ruhr.2010 Museum, Dortmund, Germany; Primary in Miami, Florida; David B. Smith Gallery in Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles Nomadic

▲ *A Synthetic Landscape*

Division; Paris Photo | LA in Los Angeles; e105 Gallery in Berlin, Germany; Arted House, East Hampton, New York; and LA><ART and MAMA in Los Angeles. His works are held by major collections throughout the world.

Sternberg is currently working on a documentary about his journey across the Pacific on a shipping vessel, the reconstruction of Ray Johnson's infamous Room 247 of the Inn at Baron's Cove, editions with LA><ART and Exhibition A, and various exhibitions and dreams.

RAFFLE

Cole Sternberg has generously donated the above 28" x 16" acrylic and watercolor on linen entitled, "A Synthetic Landscape," valued at \$4,800. The framed painting will be raffled at the art gala.



SHANE TOWNLEY

New York City



Shane Townley's work and search for artists has taken him throughout the world looking for inspiration through social interactions with local people, foods and cultures. His choice of artist's work is often described as having deep meaning, feeling, and emotion, with a story behind each artist's concept that brings the viewer on a journey of meditation, calmness and peace.

All of the art work Townley represents is original and one of a kind, whether it is mixed media, enamel on wood, or oil or acrylic paintings with texture on canvas. Townley only deals in originals from the artists' studios.

Townley is currently an internationally collected artist, foundation founder and art director. His own work can be found in private and corporate collections worldwide. He has exhibited and curated shows in New York, New Jersey, Beverly Hills, San Diego, Las Vegas, Palm Desert, Monterey and Scottsdale, Arizona with connections to galleries in Venice, Italy and Barcelona, Spain. In 2013, he founded the Townley Arts Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to arts education.

When Townley is not traveling the world in search of his next inspiration, New York City is where he works and lives with his wife Adela.



▲ *Far Off*

ALIX HALLMAN TRAVIS

Halcottsville, New York



Alix Hallman Travis is a sketcher—in the park, at a dance, or on the subway. She sketches in a black sketch book she carries everywhere. She rapidly records the shapes and postures of the figures and buildings flashing by in front of her. She moves quickly to record what captures her eye. The speed of sketching is integral to her process, reducing the drawing to the essential.

“The figure that attracts me is in motion with a striking gesture. The sketch, not



▲ *Village*

posed but observed en situ, must be executed quickly. The challenge is to use the sketch of the moving figure in a larger more elaborate composition without losing the illusion of a moment in a sequence of movements. I maintain the spontaneity of the original by redrawing the figure freehand without the aids of scaling techniques. I do not work from photographs.”

The colors on her palate are saturated and bold. Oils, for Travis, are large. The tools required fill her hand and the pieces show clear and intentional evidence of the artist at work with the palette knife.

Travis finds her inspiration from many sources, including other artists like the Fauvists, the German and Boston expressionists, Regionalists Thomas Hart Benton and Reginald Marsh. In addition, she finds inspiration in a new medium, location, subject, the size, shape of the surface on which she is painting and in her students.

JOHAN WAHLSTROM

New York City



Johan Wahlstrom is one of today’s brightest artists who is making a conscious effort to describe the social and political landscape of our contemporary world. His provocatively titled pieces are social critiques, reflecting the artist’s effort to grapple with a world of extreme polarities.

Wahlstrom creates his paintings quickly, inspired by cryptic observations jotted on scraps of paper littering his Malaga, Spain studio.

“I decide what titles I will work with each day and set myself into the mood with loud music. I try to paint the title to get the viewers to spin their brains toward the story.” Some of the titles include, “It’s Boring to Die,” “House of Lies,” “Truth Is A Lie,” “Time to Scream,” “Don’t Die As A Virgin” and “So in Debt.”

The titles may be ironic, but the paintings’ narratives strike a true emotional chord. The haunted people in his paintings seem to be crying out for sustenance, both physical and psychic.

Wahlstrom’s path to painting was unconventional, with unexpected turns that speak to a vital, original creative mind. Born in Stockholm to a lineage of artists, Wahlstrom was first a musician and singer who painted only infrequently. The rock and roll life “brought me too much trouble,” and he moved to France where he did nothing but paint. This launched his new career as an artist. The series, “It’s Boring to Die” and “House of Lies” has traveled around Europe, New York and Miami.



▲ *Welcome to My Mind*



JOE WAKS

Bayonne, New Jersey



Joe Waks is a painter and printmaker who lives in Bayonne, New Jersey. He is also an attorney who for 18 years worked at the highest levels of local, state and federal government in his beloved Garden State.

Waks is an audacious commentator on the kooky times in which we live. Observant as a seasoned reporter who never leaves home without his "Little Pad of Ideas," he doesn't let a headline, artifact or late-night infomercial get by him. He is

constantly unearthing the teeny-tiny things that go unnoticed in our mundane workaday world. His mixed media creations serve as a commentary on the interconnected world we inhabit.

Underscoring his passion for politics and popular culture, his work reflects our consumerist ethos by "recontextualizing" the icons and emblems common among disparate human civilizations. He seeks to temper contemporary reality with humor, irony and a bit of hope.

Waks recently worked with the Experimental "Printmaking Institute, Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania to create new silkscreens. In 2015, he completed a large-scale mural in Jersey City. His next solo exhibition of new paintings is in September, 2016 at Newark's Index Art Center.

Waks was a 2012 Fellow at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey in Branchburg and a 2008 New Jersey Print and Paper Fellow at the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.



▲ *Miracle Starts Monday*

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*"Don't judge each day
by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant."*

Debra and Peter W. Till



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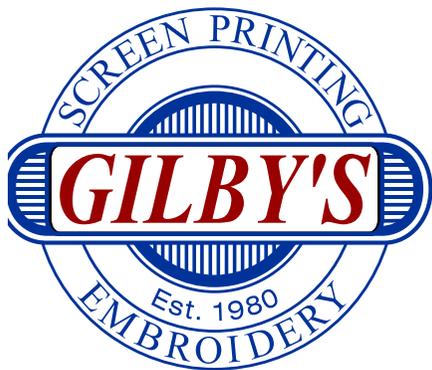
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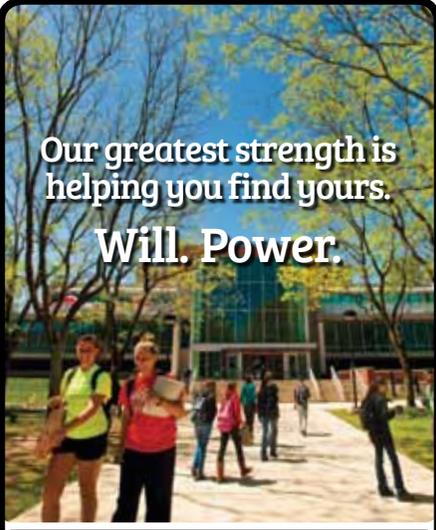
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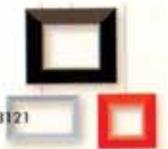
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