

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURIEN ARTS GALLERY PRESENTS

CONVERGENCE: 15 EMERGING NORTHWEST ARTISTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd TO SATURDAY, MARCH 31st

Opening reception Friday February 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Convergence is a show built on the foundation of friendship, collaboration, and communication that emerged when 15 artists united to reach one common goal. These 15 artists, all strangers to one another, were voluntarily brought together in the summer of 2006 to participate in an intensive program that would provide them with the tools to cultivate their careers and to be able to sustain themselves and their art. Inspired by the personal and professional group dynamic, the artists pledged to continue to support one another's professional endeavors, and the idea for a show was born. Presented by the Burien Art Gallery, *Convergence* is Friday, February 2 to Saturday, March 31st at 421 SW 146th Street. Opening Reception: Friday February 2 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. For more information call 206/244-7808.

The artists whose work is presented in *Convergence* share many career dreams and challenges. They have spent many dedicated years studying and exploring the techniques and creative potential of their craft, as well as developing that intuitive, personal form of self-expression called art. But the professional skills and resources that allow an entrepreneur to grow a successful career are rarely taught in art class, and working alone in a studio doesn't easily translate into a supportive network of peers. That need is addressed by Artist Trust, a local not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to provide professional assistance and ongoing support for individual artists working in all disciplines, in order to enrich community life throughout Washington State.

In 2006, through a panel process, these 15 artists were selected to participate in the Artist Trust's EDGE professional development program. Drawn together by the intensive curriculum, they were instructed by each other's struggles and solutions as well as by the course's instructors. Now they want to share their work and journey with the Burien community.

The *Convergence* artists each hope to gain recognition, grow in excellence, and contribute to their community. They want to continue as supportive cohorts, sharing their creative spirit and helping to build a culture where art and personal expression are held in the highest esteem.

The Artists:

Carol Chellino does encaustic paintings that invite the viewer to visually travel through an environment with the abstraction of forms, suggested by nature and the coastal landscape.

Nathan DePietro creates meticulously rendered egg tempera paintings reminiscent of Giotto, Botticelli and Russian icons using iconography and complex metaphors to create political satire narratives.

Betty Hageman explores the recurring forms and patterns found in deep spaces through abstract transparent layers of intense color and mysterious textures in her natural science acrylic paintings.

Matt Johnson paints narratives about the individuals that make stories happen, the vehicles of implementation and the consequence of actions within the escalating violence and war in the world.

Nic Langille's collages are informed by our cold universe, and more specifically by her profound fascination with the obscene, describing an overabundance, and an assault not only of information but of structure.

Bonnie Lebesch creates large-scale photomontage prints of healing plants used in Chinese medicine that become visual inquiries into the energetic patterns inherent in nature.

Amanda Lee's current works are vitreograph prints created with glass plates that have been etched into, layered with color, coated in white and then etched once again before final printing.

Ellen Miffitt uses experimentation, serendipity, and exploration of materials in her sumi-e and collage to express the energy that celebrates life in all its mystery and paradox.

Astrid Muller-Karger creates large scale, figurative, process drawings consisting of interwoven layers of physically active mark making and erasing. The end result is a visual web that urges us to question our perception.

Lauren Osmolski sculpts haunting metal forms that speak to our desire as humans to transfer our emotions on to animals to communicate and understand ourselves through the expressiveness of animals.

Amy Reynolds forms figurative sculptures out of paper mache, plaster, and found objects that span the globe. Using her scavenger eye, she gathers objects and creates work that speaks of interconnections, light, and the juxtapositions of people, places, and things.

Tamara Stephas paints dreamlike narratives in oils depicting the intersection of many possible narratives using the themes of time, change, and mortality.

Iosefatu Sua creates street influenced fine art that deals with culture, identity and expressionism by taking creation myths from the Pacific Islands, Asia and other non-Western cultures to inspire new myths, create and expand on them.

Lun-Yi Tsai creates large-scale drawings that he calls *dimostrazione* or demonstrations. These expressive illustrations of mathematical treatises go beyond their mathematical origins and realize their own unique idiosyncratic purpose.

Connie Wellnitz's quiet and exotic hand colored photography invokes hazy memories of places and the distortions of dreams.

ARTIST TRUST/EDGE PROGRAM

The *EDGE Professional Development Program for Visual Artists* provides visual artists with a comprehensive survey of professional practices through a hands-on, interactive curriculum that includes instruction by professionals in the field as well as specialized presentations, panel discussions, site visits, and assignments. The *EDGE* Program focuses on providing artists with the relevant and necessary entrepreneurial skills to achieve their personal career goals, as well as to develop peer support and exchange among the participating artists. In 2006, through a panel process, 60 artists were selected to participate in the 50-hour training program.

BURIEN ARTS GALLERY/ BURIEN ARTS ASSOCIATION

“The Burien Arts Gallery, ‘the little blue house in the woods,’ is the best-kept secret in Burien.”

The Burien Arts Association has operated an arts sales gallery since 1965 by an all-volunteer group. Since 1974, it has been located in a charming house in a wooded city park. Works by 75 Northwest artists are continuously available with six featured shows annually.

WHAT: *Convergence*: 15 Emerging Northwest Artists

WHERE: Burien Arts Gallery, 421 SW 146th Street, Burien, WA 98166
Tel. 206/244-7808

WHEN: Friday, February 2nd to Saturday, March 31st
Opening Reception: Friday, February 2nd 6:00-9:00 pm

IMAGES AND INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS ARE
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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