

Chestnut Hill Local

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Visit art studios in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy, G'twn

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donnihaims.com): "For more than 15 years, I have been creating art in the space between living, working and mothering. For me, every day is an adventure, and every experience is an opportunity to learn and grow as a woman, a mother, an artist. I take the little pieces of life we drop along the way and combine them with the elements that surround me. With these parts I am composing pieces of art that can be viewed, enjoyed and experienced on multiple levels. I am cautious to contemplate my materials carefully and utilize only reclaimed and repurposed goods and mostly found objects. Of course, many of life's droppings end up on my doorstep as fodder for the mill, and I happily

give them new life."

•**Daniel Oliva, Mt. Airy** (www.danieloliva.com): "City lights have replaced our need for a night sky. Symbols of night such as the moon, stars and darkness are eroding and, concurrently, our identity in the Cosmos is changing. With fewer stars in sight, many viewers of art are more familiar with terrestrial and in particular, cultural avenues for spiritual insight. My goal is to evoke the richness of night and give the viewer an avenue for intimate contemplation of his/her place in the universe."

•**Monique Seyler, Chestnut Hill** (galleriesaintmartin.com): "The motivation to open Gallery Saint Martin came from the chance meetings that became close

friendships that I experienced with two area artists, Ursula Sternberg and Naomi Limont. We sometimes lamented, as most artists do, that it was frustrating that there were so few opportunities to exhibit work. At least, not enough for the rate at which we were creating new work ... Operating my own gallery would allow me to exhibit and have control over my own work, of which there are many veins, too many to appeal to most commercial spaces. Some work I have no intention of selling, but enjoy exhibiting anyway. I love the leeway to do the same for the artists who show here."

•**Jennifer Monahan, Mt. Airy** (jen.mo@verizon.net): "Often the inspiration for my work comes from people I know or places I've been. My pieces are not serious in nature and do not encompass any rigid 'meanings,' but I hope they evoke a deep feeling of joy when viewed ... I think of my paper sculptures as contemporary folk art: simple and clever in design, adding a bit of color and whimsy to the life of a home. My hope is that all of my pieces bring you as much joy as they did me in creating them."

•**Barbara Rosin, Chestnut Hill** (barbarainart.blogspot.com): "I rarely paint what I see in front of me. I like to wander and notice how landscapes and people vary. And how often they can seem very similar. Relationships between forms in the landscape intrigue me. I try imagining the atmosphere of what I'm seeing — the emotion, state of mind, ambiguity ... Back in the studio, I try to remember the hum and harmony, as well as the silence. Recalling the memory, I begin to paint."



Barbara Rosin will have her drawing, painting and printmaking on display in her Chestnut Hill studio. Here is one of her favorites: "Hot Summer Day," a 24" by 30" oil on board.



Daniel Oliva is one of the Chestnut Hill artists with an open studio. Here is his "Cascades West (Depoe Bay)," 2008. It's an oil on panel. 33" x 40." Depoe Bay is a small coastal town in Oregon. The painting was a commission for someone who has a house there.



"February Morning," by Jennifer Monahan, is 9 1/2" x 6 1/2," and the medium is paper. It is actually one of her larger pieces. Her work is currently on exhibit at

Open Studio Tours for dozens of Hill area artists

By Len Lear

Dozens of artists from Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and Germantown, including 15 from The Northwest Artists' Collective (NAC), will be opening their studios this weekend, Oct. 10 and 11, between noon and 6 p.m., and showcasing their work in their own studios and at other locations in the Northwest such as InFusion Tea & Coffee and Earth, Bread & Brewery.

All tours are self-guided and free. The 10th annual Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST) will allow the public to meet the artists in their studios and talk with them about their work and the art making process and to purchase art from the source. Last weekend, artists from east of Broad Street held their Open Studio Tours, and this weekend artists from all other parts of the city will open their stu-

dios to the public, including those from the Northwest.

This year, the Open Studio Tours will feature the following members of the Northwest Artists Collective: Elaine Bass (Mt. Airy), Debs Bleicher (Mt. Airy), Eleanor Day (Mt. Airy), Melissa Maddonni Haims (Chestnut Hill), Helene Halstuch (Chestnut Hill), Gail Kotel (Mt. Airy), Jennifer Monahan (Mt. Airy), Sherman Oberson (Mt. Airy), Daniel Oliva (Mt. Airy), Barbara Rosin (Chestnut Hill), Ellie Seif (Mt. Airy); and Dr. Valarie Ena Swain, Don Harrison, Elfie Harris and Anne Boysen, all of Germantown.

Non-members of NAC in Northwest Philadelphia who will also have their studios open to the public are: Ellen R. Brooks, Andrea and Colin Keefe, Tom Herbert, Ilene Pearlman, Jessica Liddell and Christine Belton, and Paul Dusold, all of Chestnut Hill or Mt. Airy;

and Blair Buchanan, Gina Michaels, John Phillips, Edward Carey, Laura Conklin, Sean Mattio, Emma Salamon, Karen Singer, James Tafel Shuster, Patrick Egan, Mindy Flexer, Daniel Dallmann, Lauren Griffin, David Posey, Jonathan Schoff, Carrie Cook, Logan Speirs and Monique Seyler, all of whom have studios in Germantown, although they may live elsewhere. There are also 12 other studios with more than one artist apiece that will be open to the public in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and Germantown.

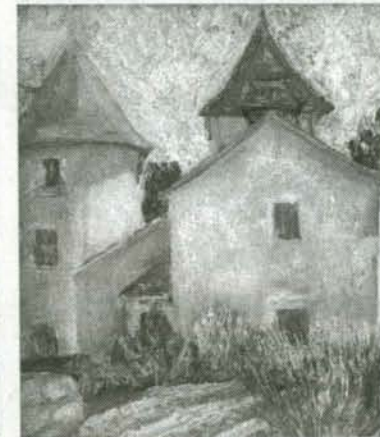
According to Barbara Rosin, a Chestnut Hill resident and group spokesperson, "NAC is a group of over 20 painters, sculptors, print makers, photographers and fiber artists in Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill. The members are professional artists who show independently and as a group throughout the region. The Collective members meet on a monthly basis to discuss local arts and projects to further their reach into the community through the arts.

"NAC was born in 2005 after many local artists met each other through the POST program, which is a program of The Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CFEVA), a nonprofit career development organization that creates opportunities for artists to reach their professional goals. As the largest annual tour of visual artist studios in Philadelphia, POST brings you right to the source of our city's impressive art scene. 2009 marks the 10th anniversary, so we invite the public to join us in the celebration of this milestone tour."

In addition CFEVA is working with Mount Airy Contemporary Artists Space and Profiles Fine Art Printmaking Studio as community



Monique Seyler is a Chestnut Hill artist, but she will be exhibiting her works at Wayne Mills, 3rd floor, 4517 Wayne Ave. in Germantown. She is seen here in her Germantown studio.



Helene Halstuch invites the public to her art studio at 9 East Moreland Ave. in Chestnut Hill as part of the 10th annual Philadelphia Open Studio Tours this weekend. Helene lived in England and France for 20 years where she exhibited extensively before returning to the U.S. in 1995. Her landscapes, still lifes and monotypes are expressively painted, and her use of light is reminiscent of Bonnard, Van Gogh and Cezanne. The title of this painting by Halstuch is "Papillon," an oil on panel, 12" x 10." For more information, email lumenarte@aol.com.

partners to provide support and information about the event. Call 215-546-7775, ext. 13, or visit philaopenstudios.org for detailed information about each participating artist and community partner.

Following are comments from a sampling of the Northwest's participating artists about their work:

• **Anne Boysen, Germantown** (www.aboyesenart.com): "Painting is my life, my work and my joy. It's a 24/7 affair. My heart, soul and hand are guided by inspiration and experimentation on canvas. The inspiration comes from a place for which I am unable to name for certain; however, I have a deep appreciation, love and respect for nature, music and the color emanating from them ... With tremendous focus and concentration, these paintings seem to paint themselves. This is a calling and a passion, and I am grateful for the gift that has been bestowed upon me."

• **Melissa Maddonni Haims, Chestnut Hill** (www.melissamad-

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Melissa Maddonni Haims, one of the Chestnut Hill artists who will be opening their studios to the public, is seen here in last year's Philadelphia Open Studio Tour (POST) with a visitor to her studio, Alyssa Davidson.