July 23, 2020

ANTON ART CENTER ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN ART MILE DETROIT

The Anton Art Center is delighted to announce our participation in Art Mile Detroit, a new citywide digital art exhibition that champions Detroit’s vibrant and diverse arts community by promoting public programs and online acquisitions.

Launching July 29, Art Mile Detroit (www.artmiledetroit.com) will host a week of public programs from July 29-August 5, featuring digital installations, artwork sales, virtual museum tours, and live events such as panel discussions, artist studio visits, film screenings, and musical performances, with the potential for future events.

Organized by Reyes | Finn and Cultural Counsel in partnership with Red Bull Arts, the project will present artwork and programs alongside over 55 of Detroit’s local art galleries, institutional non-profits, museums, and artist-run spaces, including the Anton Art Center, Cranbrook Museum, Detroit Artists Market, Downriver Council for the Arts, HATCH Art, Live Coal Gallery, Northville Art House, Popps Packing, River’s Edge Gallery, Scarab Club, and more.

Art Mile aims to provide Detroit’s local art institutions with a forum to sustain and amplify engagement with creative communities at a local level and beyond.

“Art Mile aims to continue our city’s long tradition of banding together in resilience, recovery, and collective dreaming, whether in periods of economic crisis or prosperity,” says Founding Partner Terese Reyes. “Detroit’s arts community has become the heart of a city bursting with creativity—that’s something worth protecting.”

The Anton Art Center, the exclusive Macomb County participant, will be featuring seven contemporary oil paintings and hand-stitched fiber artworks for sale by artist, Jeanne Bieri.

Jeanne grew up on a farm in Hastings, Michigan. In the 1970s, she married, moved to Detroit, and discovered art-making, and by the 1990s, she had earned an MFA from Wayne State University in Painting. She later taught at the University of Michigan (Dearborn), Wayne State University, and Henry Ford Community College, and has maintained a studio space in Detroit for over thirty years. She is a 2017 Kresge Fellow, featured Detroit Essay’d Artist, and recipient of many awards and grant prizes in the region.

“I like things with a history and I love to oil paint,” says Jeanne. Two of the seven artworks featured in the online show are small black-and-white oil paintings inspired by vintage photographs purchased at a flea market. She adds, “I remember the wonder years the 1950s were: my experiments with invisible ink, the secret Long Horn Club, the career choices available in the back of the comic books, and
the jokes in the Bazooka Joe Bubble Gum wrappers. All of this, with the anxious undertones of the cold war. A duality of memory and reality.”

Jeanne enjoys collecting various items of interest to inspire her artwork, such as the lost photographs, and finds the process of art-making contemplative and peaceful. Then, as she began collecting various fiber artifacts, she discovered a new artistic path that would allow her to bring the items themselves into the works.

The other five contemporary works included for sale in the Art Mile exhibit feature her signature fiber art style of combining historic fabrics, such as Army blankets, and handmade quilts by stitching them together, sometimes including other repurposed materials or paint.

Jeanne’s father was a pilot and brought back Army blankets to the farm, which the family used regularly. Today, she cherishes the materials she selects for her work as much as the process of making the pieces, because of the stories they tell—even the ‘raggedy’ ones.

She adds, “I am inspired to mend them as an act of making them whole, just as the generations of women in my family before me had done with textiles.” In this way, Jeanne’s art carries themes of heartfelt hope for humankind through the labor-intensive process-based restorative work done in homage to the memory of loved ones. “I feel that by hand-stitching the materials and restructuring their forms, their original creators and users are honored. The layering of these fabrics represents overlapping purposes: necessity and comfort.”

Art-making is not only a meditative practice for Jeanne, but a deeply personal one of healing and peace. “With the world in such turmoil, it is my profound hope that in restructuring and mending these blankets by defining the surface with the chain stitch, the horrors of war that exist today can be kept at bay.”

Anton Art Center Exhibition Manager, Stephanie Hazzard adds, “We are looking forward to showcasing the art of our friend, Jeanne, and being a part of this exciting collective effort within our creative community.”

The Anton Art Center is temporarily closed. For more information about the Anton Art Center, visit www.theartcenter.org or call 586-469-8666. The Anton Art Center is a registered nonprofit organization located in Mount Clemens, Michigan, with a mission to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts and a vision to create an open community around creative expression. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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For Immediate Release
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Art Mile Detroit, Anton Art Center

Exhibiting Artwork Images: Artist Jeanne Bieri

Blue Peril by Jeanne Bieri. Felt, wood, silk, rayon, cotton. 72x52x8 in., $4,900. Courtesy of Artist Jeanne Bieri.

Tex (Chaps) by Jeanne Bieri. Oil on panel. 8x10 in., $700. Courtesy of Artist Jeanne Bieri.

Photo of artist Jeanne Bieri. Courtesy of Kresge Arts in Detroit.
Art Mile

July 29 -------- August 5


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