

Four artists explore color and spirit in Frenchtown

The Open Space Gallery of Frenchtown, N.J., in collaboration with Morpeth Contemporary of Hopewell, N.J., will present Four Notable New Jersey Artists July 27 to Aug. 29.

Featured are Michael Madigan, Pamela Farrell, Illia Barger and James Jansma.

The exhibit includes Madigan's dynamically colored canvases and panels depicting explorations of energy and spirit, Farrell's encaustic textures and muted abstract impressionistic painting, Barger's large scale floral paintings, and Jansma's Asian influenced ceramic pottery.

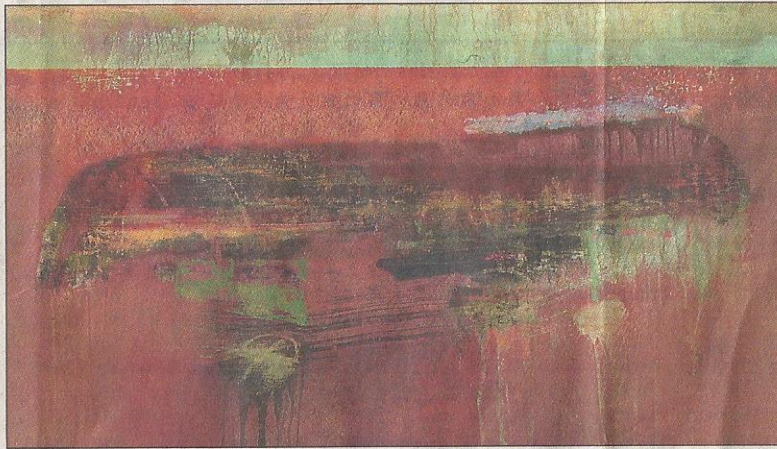
"The paintings are meant to be evocative more than narrative, to bring the viewer into a dialogue as it reveals itself through the layers," he explains. By utilizing recognizable objects among the abstract impression one is drawn to interact with the paintings.

Madigan's paintings, influenced by his overseas travels to Ireland and exploration off the coast of Spain.

"I am moved to make art that explores themes of loss, identity and memory. I have a tendency toward revealing ... something: remains, scars, traces of memories barely discernable," says Farrell. She captures a moment in an emotional context while interpreting historic reminiscences of Monet's paintings, where light, weather, and season are transient, too.

Barger, a longtime resident of the Delaware River region, resides in Byram. She earned her BFA from The Cooper Union School in New York City. Her large-scale floral works, which sprouted from her experience as a beekeeper, coinciding with translucent color themes that engage the viewer.

Barger's prolific artistry has included public work such as an exterior mural measuring in downtown Trenton depicting the first public reading of the Declaration of



"Holdfast" by Michael Madigan.

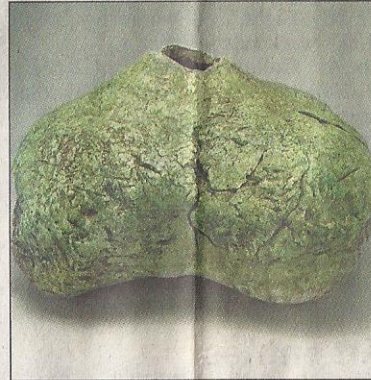
Independence.

Hopewell-based Jansma specializes in large open bowls and earthenware vases with removable water vessel insertions that hold flowers.

"I am interested in surface," Jansma says. "I do a lot of heavy layering of glazes and thick crusted surfaces." Jansma was awarded the New Jersey Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship in 2009.

An artists' reception will be held on First Friday in Frenchtown 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 6.

The gallery is at 36 Bridge St. Call 609-333-9393.



James Jansma's "Raveena."



"Natasha" by Ilya Barger.