

ART

'Made in New York'

Refreshing breath of new artistry featured at Schweinfurth's annual exhibition

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It's summer in Central New York, (finally) which means it's time once again for the "Made in New York" show at

the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center in Auburn. This year's show is one of the more diverse shows of recent years and introduces new names to Central New York.

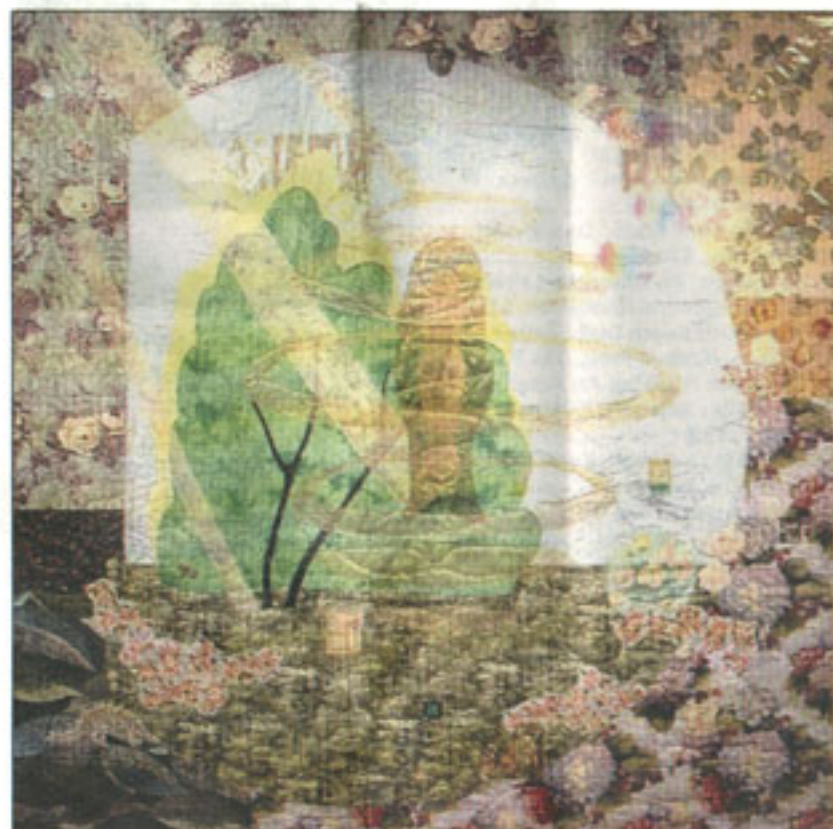
The staff attributes this refreshing breath of new artistry to expanded distribution of the show's prospectus. As a result, there are more artists from Western New York and downstate in this year's show than in previous years. The "Made in New York Show" is still very much a Central New York show, but it definitely benefits from a shot of new blood.

This year's show was curated by Gina Murtagh, former executive director of Sculpture Space in Utica and currently on the faculty at Pratt/Munson-Williams Proctor Arts Institute School, and Rainer Maria Wehner, a sculptor from Berlin, Germany. The works they selected embrace a range of media: painting, art quilts, photography, printing, digital collage, installation and sculpture.

The quality level of the work is fairly consistent, although a few pieces snuck in that don't measure up, but that can happen when you're judging from slides as Murtagh and Wehner were doing.

Among the names that were new to me, I particularly liked New York City artist June Jansen's two delicate vitreous enamel and mixed media pieces. Jansen's touch with enamel bears the precision and sensitivity of a jeweler.

Rochester artist Liaung-Chung Yen also exhibited an imaginative piece, "Rebirth, (Wearable Reminder)." It's part sculpture, part wearable art that is both poignant and elegant in its execution. I also liked the three mixed media pieces by



THIS QUILT — "Small Comforts and Large," 2002, by Valerie Schadt, of Fayetteville, — is richly patterned with a variety of floral fabrics, yet the center suggests a landscape scene. Among the sea of flowers and flowing threads, Schadt has stitched the photo of a young girl. There's also a tin butterfly and hearts.

Getzville artist Georgia Trimper, which consist of city maps printed on fabric that she overlays with diaphanous fabrics and embellishes with thread. Trimper places you above her city blocks, using an aerial perspective, as if you were a bird soaring above the urban landscape.

There were a few sculptors included in the exhibition, but it was probably the weakest category. Among the standouts were Donald Sottile's (Himrod, Yates County) commanding wood sculpture titled "Curiosity" and Eric David Laxman's (Valley Cottage, Rockland County) intriguing piece in marble, steel and bronze called "Striding Figure."

Photography and art quilts were also well represented in this year's show. I'd attribute the expanded role of photography to Murtagh's background as a photographer. The range of quilters is probably due to the Schweinfurth's long-standing support of the medium through its annual quilt show. Both categories

brought new names.

I've merely skimmed the surface of this year's extensive "Made in New York" exhibition. It's encouraging to see that the show is beginning to more fully reflect the range of talent that its title implies and our state provides.

If you go

What: "Made In New York."
Where: Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, 205 Genesee St., Auburn.
When: Through Aug. 24.
What to expect: Works by 50 artists from throughout New York state.
Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.
Admission: \$3 for adults; free for children younger than 12.
Contact: 255-1553.

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THIS PIECE — "Striding Figure," 2002, by Eric David Laxman, of Valley Cottage in Rockland County, marble, steel and bronze — is a cross between the Greek Kouros (figure of a young boy, usually in marble) and Alberto Giacometti's bronze piece titled "The Chariot," which references an Etruscan bronze.