

"Watercolor Ohio 2008" on display at Riffe Gallery

"Watercolor Ohio 2008" , the 31st Annual Juried Exhibition sponsored by The Ohio Watercolor Society, is being shown at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery from November 6 to January 11, 2009. The Riffe Gallery is located at 77 S. High Street in Columbus. Works from 65 of Ohio's watercolorists have been included. This year's exhibition was juried by Alvaro Castagnet from Montevideo, Uruguay, an internationally renowned watercolorist and author of *Watercolor Painting with Passion*. In collaboration with the exhibit, several exciting programs are being offered all which are free and open to the public.

- Sunday, November 2 from 2-4 p.m. Alvaro Castagnet will be doing a watercolor painting demonstration at the Columbus Museum of Art, located at 480 Broad Street.

- Friday, November 7 from 6-8 p.m. is an exhibition of The Ohio Watercolor Society's permanent collection at Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School. Fort Hayes is located at Shot Tower, 546 Jack Gibbs Boulevard in Columbus.

- A variety of Sunday afternoon painting demonstrations will be offered by OWS members from 2-4 p.m. at The Riffe Gallery:

- November 9 - Marilyn Stocker will provide a child and parents workshop. Reservations are required with the Riffe Gallery

- November 16 - "The Triple Play". Homer Hacker, Carolyn Ross Hibbard and Karen

LaValley will all paint from a live model.

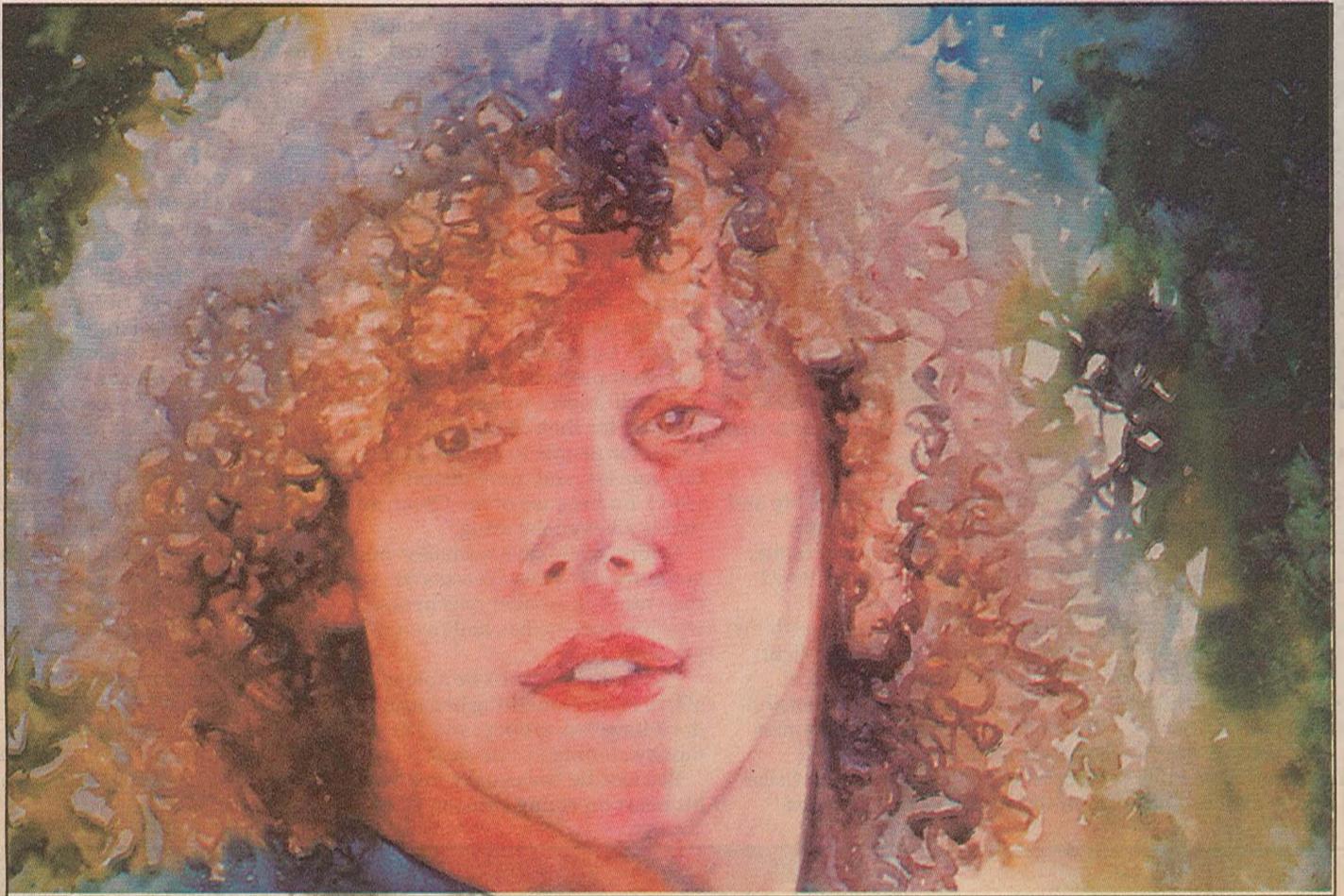
- November 23 - "Getting the Dogs Out of the Kennel" by Judy Anderson who will demonstrate successful pet painting.

- December 7 - "Working Through Creative Blocks" by Sharon Stolzenberger who will demonstrate how to shake things up to create more exciting works.

For further details, or information on becoming a member of The Ohio Watercolor Society, visit www.ohiowatercolorssociety.com.

For hours or directions to the exhibit, visit www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe or call 614-644-9624.

Watercolor won



Joshua by Tamara Scantland Adams

Society show explores possibilities inherent in challenging method

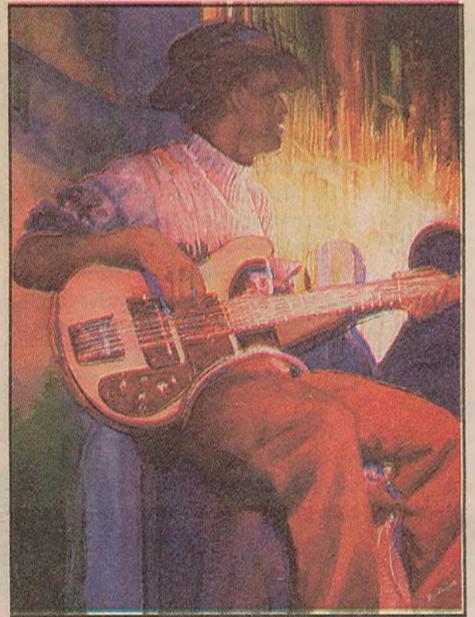
By Kaizaad Kotwal | FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The “31st Annual Juried Exhibition” of the Ohio Watercolor Society celebrates how flexible and impressive a difficult medium becomes in the right hands.

Sixty-seven paintings were selected by juror Alvaro Castagnet, a native of Uruguay, for the exhibit, which continues through Jan. 11 in the Riffe Gallery.

Not everything is brilliant, but, when the artists stretch outside their comfort zones to flex the medium’s muscle, the result is stunning.

Styles and subjects range from abstract works to figurative pieces, still lifes to landscapes — with no shortage of ideas.



The Backup Man by Fran Mangino



Detail of *Exploring Apples Again* by Joan Rothel

► “The Ohio Watercolor Society: 31st Annual Juried Exhibition” continues through Jan. 11 in the Riffe Gallery, 77 S. High St. Hours: noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays. Call 614-644-9624 or visit www.riffegallery.org.

Joan Rothel breathes new life into the still life with *Exploring Apples Again*, in which her images of the fruit are spread over a long canvas. Warm sunlight streams in from beyond, contributing to a scene that is moody, lyrical and even playful.

Joshua by Tamara Scantland Adams is an impressionistic portrait of a young man. His long curls and the light hitting his face make the image seem spiritual and otherworldly.

Linda Hutchinson’s *Young Man d’apres Matrix* is a simple yet evocative portrait. Using minimal color and few brushstrokes, she creates a strong representation of her subject.

In *Silhouette*, a woman with hunched shoulders and a gaze fixed on the ground stands before a large window that overlooks a bright, sunny vista. Megan Gayle Hadley employs emotional and visual

opposites to create a moving work.

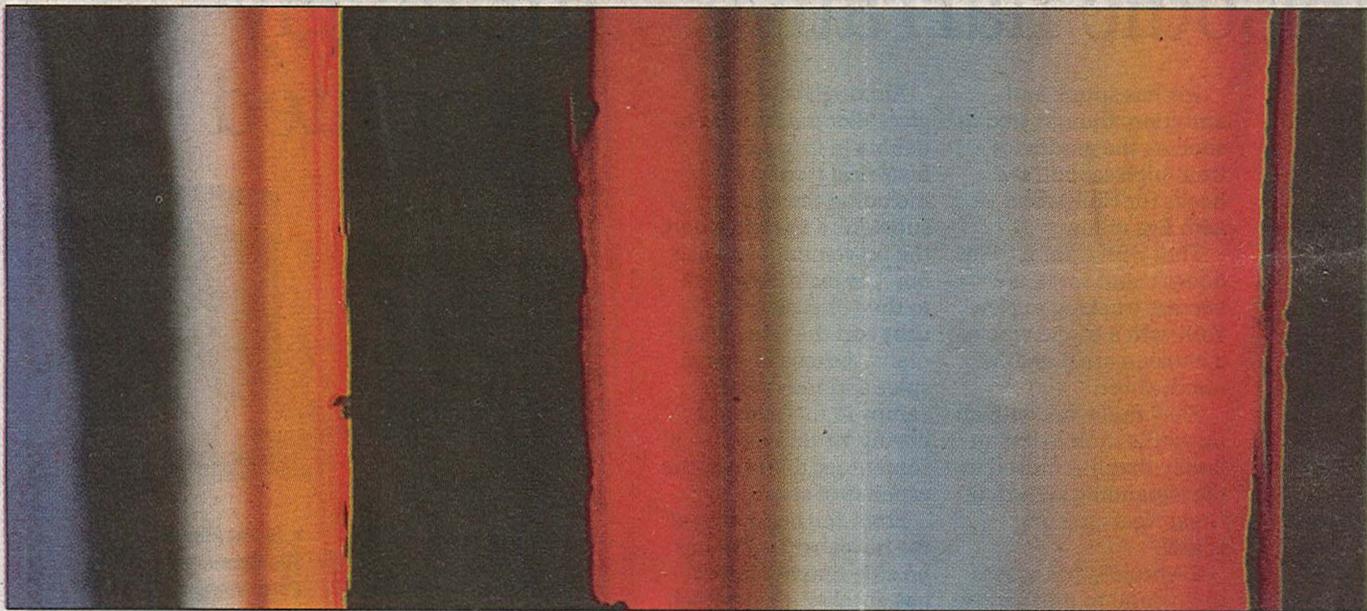
Fran Mangino’s *The Backup Man* is a strong figurative portrait. A musician, created with detail and emotional nuances, is set against an abstract backdrop. The work exudes musicality through its lyrical use of line, color and brushstrokes.

David Neil Mack’s *At the Edge of the Otherworld*, which won the exhibit’s silver medal, plays with hyper-realism and the abstract. The ominous painting presents an intense close-up of a large industrial machine with pulleys and other mechanical contraptions. Humans become insignificant in contrast to the machine.

With few exceptions, the works are small or medium in size. One would like to see these artists expand their scale, using larger fields and surfaces to draw out more of the magic inherent in watercolors.

Mixed mediums

Exhibit / Riffe Gallery



Boston by Jessica Larva

Sky's the limit

Exploration of atmosphere carries imagination to new heights

By Elizabeth Trapp
FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

We can lose ourselves without the horizon to lean on. • “Sky High,” a selection of 50 works by 17 Ohio artists, offers not a landscape exhibition but a dizzying, de-centering exploration of the atmosphere above.



► “Sky High” continues through Oct. 19 in the Riffe Gallery, 77 S. High St. Hours: noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays. Call 614-644-9624 or visit www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe.

LEFT: *Clouds: 2*, 2013
by David LaPalombara

BELOW: *Wind Cloud*, 2012
by Rod Bouc

Curated by Kay Koeninger, the Riffe Gallery show opens with a bang. Jessica Larva re-contextualizes the horizon in her photographs of city skies. She prints the scenes in a landscape format but pivots the frame so that her brilliant, sun-saturated sky in *Boston* and her heavy, fog-ridden atmosphere in *NYC Gray* stretch vertically across the picture plane. Images that would otherwise be recognizable make a more distinct connection to the abstract color-field paintings of the 1950s and '60s than to our contemporary iteration of the landscape.

Abstraction is a vein running through the exhibit.

David LaPalombara and Rod Bouc produce hyper-realistic renditions of cloud formations. The intimate scale and the attention paid to detail make LaPalombara's small, tablet-sized cloud paintings seem to

catalog specific dates or moments. Bouc's large pastel and charcoal drawings of clouds are packed with melodrama.

The work of both artists is astonishing in its detail — and could easily be mistaken for a monochromatic abstraction.

Three takes on the mechanically reproduced image add a philosophical bent.

Sean Wilkinson's “NYT” series consists of four sky images, all from *The New York Times*, that Wilkinson then rephotographed and printed in a large format, revealing every dot of the half-tone printing process.

Netta Bits' *Untitled (Supermoon Datamosh)* was inspired by a renewed fascination with the sky during the 2011 “supermoon” that lured us away from TV and computer screens. Her video conflates images of the supermoon with TV static and digital fallout.

Joel Whitaker's “Sun” series



presents pinhole-camera images of ghostly sun rays.

Handmade cyanotype constellations, machine-stitched photos, enormous ethereal paper sculptures, romantic paintings and clay and bronze sculptures round out the exhibit — and demonstrate that the artists applied a good dose of imagination to depict the endless space above.