

The Mashpee Enterprise

'ROYGBIV' Exhibit Celebrates Color

By MARILYN J. ROWLAND

It was a cold, wintery night, but the Cotuit Center for the Arts was warm and colorful and packed with art lovers and artists last Saturday evening at the opening reception of the "ROYGBIV: Exploring the Color Spectrum" exhibit, sponsored by the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod.

The show, which runs through February 7, features the work of 55 artists from across the Cape in many and varied media, from buttons and balls to mosaics, ceramics and more traditional paintings. It explores the multifaceted nature of color, how color affects our emotions and our view of the world, how the artist chooses color and engages in "ongoing conversations with color."

For those who may not remember, ROYGBIV is a mnemonic that reminds us of the order of the colors in the spectrum: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet.

Maggie Van Sciver, president of the arts foundation, told those in attendance that it was a "humbling and thrilling experience" to travel to each of the artist's homes or studios to select work for the show. The Cape's artist community, she said, is "among the finest in the world." She encouraged everyone to "make yourself happy, see something fabulous, go to a gallery or art museum."

Stephen Galvin, CEO of College PayWay, the sponsor of the event, spoke about the "extraordinary role" that color plays in our lives, calming us, exciting us, irritating us, rousing us to action, and even controlling traffic. Color, he said, is "a reflection of you, your hopes, your dreams, your life, mixed on the greatest canvas imaginable."

State Senator Patrick O'Leary was more somber, reminding us of the "pretty grim picture" facing many people, in light of economic problems and political corruption. "It is at times like these," he said, "that we look to the arts community to remind us what is important in life."

The exhibit is oriented toward educating people, especially school children. Paintings are hung at children's eye level, to better engage their interest, and each artwork has a descriptive and intriguing story about the artist, or the making of the artwork, in simple, easy-to-understand language and large print.

Other educational aspects of the exhibit include a mini-art library for use by visitors and a series of child-friendly events. School groups from across the Cape will be given docent-led tours and age-appropriate art instruction activities.

Upper Cape artists in the show include Susan Beardsley and Jane Lincoln of East Falmouth; Laura Bergeron, Marisa Repeta, and Jan



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Yukimi Matsumoto and David McDermott, glassblowers.



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Chinese vase, by David McDermott, and Kimono bowl, by Yukimi Matsumoto.

Collins Selman of Falmouth; James Bowen of West Falmouth; David Campbell, Yukimi Matsumoto, David McDermott of Sandwich; Michael Ernst of Forestdale; and Alfred Glover of Cataumet.

Ms. Bergeron's primary artistic activity is making jewelry from antique buttons; she collects buttons, but often finds herself with buttons that do not have antique value, usually because they are plastic. They are still colorful and fun to look at though, so she glues them to old Bingo cards, and sells the cards full of colorful buttons. Ms. Bergeron's piece

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in the show is a framed grouping of four of her Bingo button cards. In addition to her work with buttons, Ms. Bergeron also teaches art at the Mullen-Hall School in Falmouth.

Ms. Repeta is a full-time artist. "I never really decided to be an artist," she said. "I just always loved to paint, and always had a strong interest in color, especially intense color coming out of subdued color." Her painting, entitled, "Burning Bush," shows a grouping of trees in different shades of green, highlighted by one vibrant red-leaved bush. She enjoys painting landscapes, she said, because she can modify shapes and colors to suit her mood.

Ms. Matsumoto and Mr. McDermott are glassblowers, and they are married to each other. Each has a colorful handblown glass piece in the exhibit. Ms. Matsumoto was born in Japan and came to this country eight years ago. She has been a glassblower for 15 years. Learning glassblowing takes time, and involves an apprenticeship system, both in Japan and in the United States, she said. Mixing glass colors is not as straightforward as mixing paint colors, as the colors react differently and must be treated with understanding.

Ms. Matsumoto's bowl is in delicate colors of yellow, green, and purple. She wanted to show her husband, and others, that Japanese colors were not all red and black, that many subtle shades were also used. This bowl is based on the colors in her grandmother's kimono, colors that she, as a child, did not think would go well together, until her grandmother put the kimono on. The colors in Ms. Matsumoto's piece blend beautifully too.

Mr. McDermott's piece is a red, black, and gold Chinese vase, "Chinese" in this case referring to the shape of the vase. The vase took him only 20 minutes to make, but, as he pointed out, it took him 35 years of learning and practicing glassblowing to be able to make such a perfect vase in 20 minutes. The gold lines in the vase change colors in different lights and looked blue against the drapes at the art center. Mr. McDermott said he likes to use opaque colors in his work and the use of contemporary colors on a traditional vase shape.

Entertainment at the reception was provided by 17-year-old harpist Sarah Van Sciver, a senior at Cape Cod Academy, and the daughter of Maggie Van Sciver. She plans to study both music and math in college.

The Cotuit Center for the Arts is at 4404 Falmouth Road (Route 28) in Cotuit. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. For more information on the ROYGBIV exhibit, call 508-362-0066.

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