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Y:ART GALLERY & FINE GIFTS



Jim Opasik



Jack Trimper



Mary Opasik



Leonard Streckfus

THE FOUND OBJECTS SHOW

18 May - 18 June, 2016

Y:Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of our fifth exhibition, *The Found Objects Show*; a group exhibition featuring artists Leonard Streckfus, Mary Opasik, Jack Trimper and Jim Opasik. The opening reception will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016, 6pm-9pm.

Born in Baltimore in the 50's and a graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Leonard Streckfus has long exhibited an innate ability to find beauty in discarded materials. Originally inspired by Picasso's animal sculptures made from found goods, Streckfus scours throwaway objects until he finds shapes he can "weave" together to create expressive animal forms. The Italian curator Luigi Sansone has said that Streckfus "bestows on every face... a particular expression that communicates the sensations he is perceiving, like the animal that is picking up a distant scent or is stretched out running [...] Beyond their physical demeanor, he evidences their psychological state." Streckfus' sculptures have been installed in public displays at a number of Baltimore institutions such as the Baltimore National Aquarium and the Martha and Howard Head Theater, Center Stage. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries in the U.S. as well as Italy, where Streckfus was selected as an artist for the Triennale di Milano in 2012.

Raised in Baltimore City, and graduating from MICA in the 1980's, Mary Opasik has been working with found object assemblage for over 28 years. In May 2015, Opasik traveled to Transylvania to participate in Inside Zone's artist-in-residence program in Borsec, Romania; a town nestled at the base of the Carpathian mountains. Of Transylvanian decent herself, Opasik's work in *The Found Objects Show* is influenced by an urban exploration of the Borsec's crumbling villas, hospital and surrounding areas. A collection of Opasik's archival color

photographs of the small town are encased in frames assembled from relics collected in Borsec in addition to other found objects from her studio; offering her viewers an enchanting glimpse into the windows of her heritage. Opasik's art has been exhibited in The Huntsville Museum of Art, Alabama; the American Craft Council, Baltimore; and in galleries across the U.S.

While earning his electrical engineering degree from Purdue University in the 60's, Jim Opasik worked as an assistant chef. It was his stint in the culinary arts that inspired Opasik to reconstruct ordinary kitchen utensils into whimsical figurative sculpture. "Food for the eye, one might say" Opasik has said. Collecting kitchen and metallic objects from flea markets, thrift stores, sidewalk sales and donations, the artist welds and rivets the items together to form surprising animal constructs. Opasik says he "is rewarded by the smiles, laughter and appreciation from the viewers when they recognize the repurposed kitchen objects that went into creation of the sculptures." Opasik attended the Schuler School of Fine Art in Baltimore in the 80's. He has exhibited in museums and galleries nationwide and his art was also featured in "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" (episode 419), a Turner Broadcasting TV series.

Living in Southwest Baltimore, Jack Trimper has constructed metal figurative sculptures for over 20 years. Since the late 80's to present, Trimper has devotedly worked on an ongoing series of sculptures titled *cankind*; a family of assembled 'people' he affectionately refers to as *Can Man* and *Can Ma'am*. Repurposing materials from tin cans, toothpaste tubes, bottles, metallic scraps, as well as other found objects, over the years Trimper has created over 800 'Can People.' "I transitioned from steel to aluminum containers-- from tomato and olives to soda and brews [...] Materials inspire me; this is linked with a penchant and preference for usin' what I have," the artist has said. For the *Found Objects Show* Trimper will be exhibiting sculptures from the *cankind* series as well as other works. A graduate of Towson State University, Trimper has exhibited his work in a number of Maryland galleries. Always an advocate of the arts and arts education, in the 1980's Trimper opened the Street School (now closed) - an artists' cooperative in Baltimore for children.

Y:ART Gallery & Fine Gifts is a labor of love, brought to life by Julia Yensho on October 10th, 2015. The gallery features the best and brightest artists Baltimore has to offer. In addition to the gallery, Y:ART also features a store with unique gifts handcrafted by local artists and crafters. This unique space is open for artist showings and workshops, and the gallery is also available as a venue for private social gatherings. Our open hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 12pm-5pm.

For reproduction requests, interviews with the artists, and general inquiries, please contact the gallery at 443-928-2272 or yartgallery3402@gmail.com

Y:ART Gallery & Fine Gifts
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