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Y:ART GALLERY & FINE GIFTS



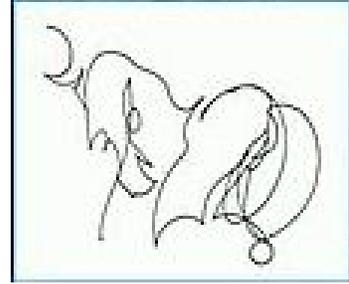
Ruth Channing



Cheryl Atkins



Dan Shapiro



Greg Fletcher

THE NUDE SHOW

24 February – 2 April, 2016

Y:Art Gallery & Fine Gift's second exhibition, *The Nude Show*, is a group exhibition featuring four renowned Maryland artists: Ruth Channing, Dan Shapiro, Cheryl Atkins and Greg Fletcher.

From the beginning of humanity itself, the nude form has always been a focal point for natives, historians and artisans alike. Evolution has allowed us to admire and perceive nudity through it's endless forms - beauty, strength, sexuality, vulnerability and even as aesthetic objects. *The Nude Show* brings together four artists who tackle the subject of nudity through their own unique approaches and mediums.

Artist Ruth Channing travelled to Paris in the 1960's to study at Atelier 17, one of the best experimental print studios of the time. Moving to Baltimore in 1971, she has since then specialized in etchings and engravings as well as painting and sculpture. The nude form, the human psyche and history are often focal points of inspiration for Channing's work. In *The Nude Show*, Channing entices you to come face to face with her brazen maidens drawn and painted with Matisse-like fluidity. Looking into the eyes of her subjects, who are often in the company of famous historical figures, one questions the relationships and emotions Channing so powerfully embeds in her works.

Living in Baltimore, Dan Shapiro's handmade ceramic pottery and bowls quite literally become vessels of the human form. Using the pottery as his canvas, Shapiro has painted playful scenes of alternate worlds where nudes frolic in their own abysses. Bringing us into his glazed paradises, Shapiro reminds us that pottery has historically served as multi-functional pieces of art you can take home, cherish and even transport you to uninhibited vistas.

For nearly a decade, Cheryl Atkins has scoured the streets of Baltimore and Maryland to find impactful subjects and scenes for her photographs. Over the years she has learned that different times of day can illuminate different aspects of the city: “Morning for the beautiful calm, midday is when lots of people are on the streets, and night for the atmosphere and drama” Atkins has said. In this show, ‘atmosphere and drama’ take center stage as Atkins features a number of black and white photographs of burlesque performers in night clubs. Bare and bathed in a scenes of glitz and bravado, Atkins allows us to become spectators and enjoy a night out on the town with her.

Raised in East Baltimore and creating art since his early 20’s, Greg Fletcher truly knows the power of creativity. In the 1990’s when Fletcher lost nearly everything and became homeless, he continued drawing and painting - once even dipping his paintbrush into puddle water to finish a liquid acrylic painting [1]. In this exhibition Fletcher showcases ink drawings of erotic nudes on archival paper. Using deftly drawn minimal lines, Fletcher’s process appears as swift as it is masterful; encompassing the full human figure with just a few strokes. While the poses of his subjects are suggestive in nature, the drawings are full of lively movement, each contour offering a splendid rendering of the human figure.

[1] Lukens, Alice. "Baltimore Artist Thrives Despite Set Backs Once Homeless Man Opens Show in W.Va." The Baltimore Sun 19 Oct. 1998.

Y:ART Gallery & Fine Gifts is a labor of love, brought to life by Juli 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