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# ML Art Center presents Betsy Meyer Exhibition

Mainly Art

By Tara Lynn Johnson

People who use their artistic gifts are celebrated in the Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition at the Main Line Art Center. The fifth annual exhibition remembering Meyer, who taught at the center, honors those who "push the envelope," as Meyer did. "The work in this exhibition is not timid, and in one way or another, rejoices, even if its addressing weighty issues," said juror William Pym, a critic, curator and former director of the Fleisher/Ollman Gallery in Philadelphia.

Twenty-seven artists' work is displayed, and the topics they explore are varied.

Drew Zimmerman, 51, of Merion Station, has two pieces in the show. They invoke memory, he said. Made from stacked up cardboard, paper and paste, the pictures are scrapbooks redeeming memory cues from cast-off trinkets, he said.

Zimmerman, a self-taught artist, made his first papier-mache objects (puppets) in the late 1970s. He learned to build up a thickness of paper in a different way, as though he were handling clay, not newsprint. He doesn't make art to change the world - he makes pictures to refine his contact with images from the past.

"My works give me a way to richly connect with my experience," he said.

Gerry Tuten, of Villanova, has two paintings in the show. "Winter River" is a portrait of a snow and ice meltdown into the Gihon River. "Summer Garden" is more about feelings, with living creatures represented through color.

"Both are reactions to my surroundings using a vast repertoire of painterly techniques - blending, smearing, bleeding, and conveying intensity of gesture," she said.

She's honored to be included in the exhibit and feels art helps her heal.

"For me, art is the gift through the journey. I'm about process as much as product in painting," she said. "To create is the one true thing that fulfills my spirit, and I have been lucky enough on my journey to have been encouraged, inspired, taught and guided by some truly amazing people."

Tuten, who holds an M.F.A. from the Tyler School of Art, has been painting "seriously" for the past 12 years, though she's been involved with art her whole life.

"Art makes visual what is within and shares what surrounds," she said. "I'm not interested in being categorized as a certain kind of artist who paints a certain subject matter. I am myself a work in progress."

The Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition at the Main Line Art Center, Old Buck Lane in Haverford, runs through Nov. 26. Call 610-525-0272.