

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings
SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Brush Art Gallery & Studios
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Exhibit Title: A Picture Is Worth 1.5 Words

Exhibition: Jan 6, to Feb 17, 2018
Reception: Sun, Jan 28, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Snow Date: Sat, Feb 4

Lowell, MA – The first exhibit for 2018 “A Picture Is Worth 1.5 Words” asks, which speaks to us more readily, a picture or a word? Do we translate words into pictures, and pictures into words? When we scan the gallery, what draws our attention first? It is for you to decide.

Printmakers: Jean Winslow, Mitchel K. Ahern, Barbara Gagel, Susan Jaworski-Stranc, and Lindsey Parker

Jean Winslow is a Boston Printmaker who specializes in monoprint/monotype. She likes to expand the boundaries of printmaking by combining monoprinting with other techniques like chine colle, solareting and most recently photo transfer using actual family photos. Some of the work shown here incorporates type as part of the design, though not part of the message!

Mitchel K. Ahern is a visual and performing artist working in letterpress, performance art and invented instruments. He participates and teaches letterpress at his shop, Mitchelka Show Card Press, the Museum of Printing in Haverhill MA, and the Flower City Printing and Book Arts Center in Rochester NY. Mitchel performs, writes and directs with the Fort Point Theatre Channel and the Viae Ensemble. His invented instrument, the harrow, is made of a blade from a disc harrow, mounted to a cello-like body and bowed, drummed, squeaked or otherwise manipulated. He has exhibited, performed and/or directed at the DeCordova Museum, Chelsea Theatre Works, 119 Gallery, Atlantic Works Gallery, Galatea, The Middle East, The Rat, the Knitting Factory, Figment, and the Wonder Valley Festival.

Lindsey Parker: Parker is a Lowell based painter, printmaker, installation artist and gallery director/co-founder at UnchARTed Gallery & Studios.

"Unfortunately, there are often only two sides to an argument. The current social, environmental, and political climate have forced me to define my morals, consider those of others, and find where I stand on the matters affecting our world. This new body of work, Dichotomous Diction, is an exercise to feel the weight of my words and try to say what I really mean. What you see on the surface isn't everything. Look deeper. Ask questions. Illuminate answers." – Lindsey Parker

Barbara Gagel: Barbara Gagel's art has always been about finding the hidden and the mysterious. It a journey of her life as spirit, searching for meaning and connecting to a deeper truth. Encaustic painting and printmaking creates translucent imagery that offers the artist endless possibilities in symbology and message.

She is a graduate of Massachusetts's College of Art with graduate work at the University of Hawaii in painting and printmaking. Workshops in Italy and the Southwest with established artists, have honed her skills and direction. Her many years of teaching art to young students in public schools, DeCordova Museum, and the private sector, continually allows her to easily connect to a childlike awareness.

A recipient of the Originals 2007 New Mexico Women Artists Award, she has shown at the Zane Bennet Gallery, The Encaustic Institute, Evos Gallery in Santa Fe, Conrad Wilde Gallery, Tuscon, Kobalt Gallery, Provincetown, and The Brush Gallery, Lowell, MA. Her present studio is in Lowell, MA

Susan Jaworski-Stranc:

“I am a Boston printmaker, specializing in the creation of reduction linoleum prints. After each successive printing of a color, the surface of the block is reduced while at the same time the print surface is built up with multi-colored layers. Born from one block of linoleum, my relief prints have the color nuances and rich textural surfaces of an oil painting.

Although Picasso coined this method of working, a ‘suicide print’, I rather think of this process as emulating the journey of life. While creating these prints, I am never able to re-visit past stages because proofing and editioning happens simultaneously. I can only proceed forward with acceptance of all the good and not so good choices which were mediated and acted upon with the hope and joy of completion.”-- Susan Jaworski-Stranc

Image: “Half Eaten” reduction linoprint by Susan Jaworski-Stranc

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Currently, eleven studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. **The Brush is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National.**