

Mixed mediums

EXHIBIT / HAMMOND HARKINS GALLERIES

Beauty in variety

Creative uses of materials showcased by seven artists

By Peter Tonguette | For The Columbus Dispatch

Works in acrylic, oil and watercolor are featured in a group exhibit at Hammond Harkins Galleries in the Short North. The melange of mediums reflects the array of artists spotlighted in “6 plus 1.”

The show highlights six artists whose works are represented by the gallery — Mark Bush, Sarah Fairchild, Linda Gall, Dennison W. Griffith, Andrea Myers and Aminah Robinson — as well as a guest artist, Laura Bidwa.

Most of the pieces on view are either new or haven't previously been exhibited — as is the case with those by Griffith and Robinson, both of whom died relatively recently.

Griffith, a former president of the Columbus College of Art & Design, died in January; Robinson, a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” recipient, died in May 2015.

The exhibit provides a potent reminder of both artists' gifts.

“Soliloquy #26” — an oil-and-encaustic-on-panel by Griffith — depicts a chain of interlocking rings against a lime-green background. The irregularly shaped rings call to mind the amoeba-like forms seen in the paintings Griffith completed before his death (recently shown in exhibits at Hammond Harkins and the Beeler Gallery).

Robinson's vibrantly colored studies feature figures painted in stream-lined brushstrokes. In “Study (Figure with Red Bird)” — in acrylic on heavy stock — the artist plays with perspective and proportion, with the hands of a female figure appearing much larger than her face as she seems to release a bright-red bird.

Other artists' contributions are also impressive.

“Vertigo Vortex,” a wonderfully colorful collage by Myers, presents thin



“Girl With Black Glasses”
by Mark Bush

sections of machine-sewn fabric arranged in a pattern that reaches a point at the work's center. To study the work is to risk falling victim to the condition referred to in the title.

Striking, too, are paintings in acrylic and silkscreen by Fairchild, who seems to delight in representing dissimilar things.

In “Purple Cabbage With Feathers,” for example, deep-purple cabbage shares the frame with white feathers falling from above. Few artists would think to pair the vegetable with the plumage of a bird.

Two works in acrylic by Bush suggest the power of human eyes to express emotion.

In “The Bohemian,” a male figure is seen in sunglasses; because his eyes are concealed by his shades, he appears inscrutable and aloof. In “Girl with Black Glasses,” a female figure wears eyeglasses; because



“Study (Figure With Red Bird)” by Aminah Robinson

her clear spectacles reveal her eyes, however, she comes across as a more empathetic presence.

Six abstract oils on panels by guest artist Bidwa are notable for clusters of color against black backgrounds.

In “Parlor trick,” dabs of white paint form a strip across the center of the picture; and in “Spare half a million,” a blob in several shades of blue — plus specks of white — overtakes the picture's surface.

And, in a series of lovely watercolors, Gall reproduced scenes captured in black-and-white family photographs from Bidwa (which are tacked on a gallery wall alongside the new paintings).

Viewers should find it fascinating to view the same image — a sailboat on the water, for example — in both black and white and color.

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At a glance

■ “6 plus 1” continues through June 12 at Hammond Harkins Galleries, 641 N. High St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Artist Laura Bidwa will give a talk at 2 p.m. June 12. Call 614-238-3000, or visit www.hammondharkins.com.