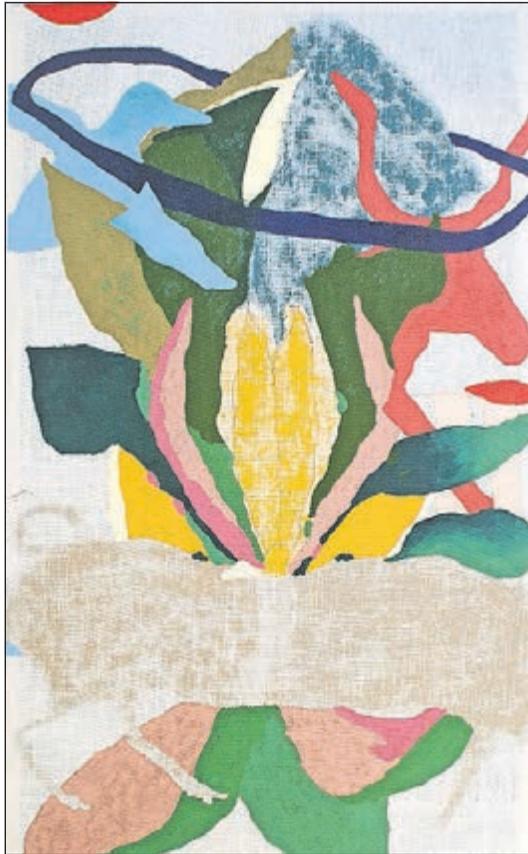


Mixed mediums

EXHIBIT / HAMMOND HARKINS GALLERIES



"Stray Delight" by Kaveri Raina



"Forgotten Pleasures"

Textured paintings crafted from both sides of canvas

By Peter Tonguette | For The Columbus Dispatch

Artist Kaveri Raina isn't finished with a work until both sides of a canvas are filled with paint.

In a series of recent pieces — featured in an exhibit at Hammond Harkins Galleries — Raina applied paint to the back side of a burlap canvas, causing the paint to seep through to the front. The artist then turned the canvas over and added more coatings of paint.

Sometimes, she does the opposite, starting on the front of the canvas and finishing on the back.

The resulting paintings are terrifically textured: Some swaths of the burlap feature faded-looking paint that has bled through to the front, while other areas feature glossy-looking paint that has been applied directly.

Raina, 26, relates her process to her personal background. The native of New Delhi, India, and her family relocated to Worthington when she was 11.

According to Raina, her work serves as "a metaphor for going between cultures." "When I'm in India, ...

At a glance

■ "Kaveri Raina: Will I Be Missed" continues through Nov. 13 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. The artist will give a talk at 2 p.m. today. Call 614-238-3000, or visit www.hammondharkins.com.

I constantly am not completely satisfied and am always missing the U.S.," said Raina, who lives in Chicago. "Or when I'm here, it's always just this yearning of going back there. It's this confusion of this back-and-forth: Where do I really exist?"

At first glance, Raina's paintings resemble full-color Rorschach tests.

"Stray Delight," for example, might remind some viewers of an inkblot in shades of brown, green and pink. A closer look, however, reveals clear

forms — albeit in silhouette — including a blooming flower as well as the outlines of large animals. In a corner, a bird spreads its wings.

Animals are also prominent in "Shy In," which features the outline of an elephant raising its trunk, and "Prefer the Past," which is overtaken with the contours of a beast resembling an ox.

The paintings are often strikingly symmetrical, as in "Will I Be Missed" — which features a snarl of squiggly lines — in purple, pink and white — in the center, with jagged forms, including one suggesting an outline of the country of India, found on the periphery.

Several paintings depict geometric forms surrounded by looser lines and blobs. Squares dominating the center of pictures such as "Forgotten Pleasures" are intended to evoke windows.

"I call them the 'burlap window,'" Raina said. "I like them as being this emptiness in the middle, yet that's where your eyes go."

In fact, all of Raina's paintings provide a fascinating window into her life.

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EXHIBIT / ART ACCESS GALLERY

Four artists present own vibrant palettes

By Nancy Gilson
For The Columbus Dispatch

Art Access Gallery in Bexley is enjoying a burst of color, thanks to new works by four artists, all with ties to central Ohio.

Three — including Paula Rubinstein, an Ohio State University graduate from Chagrin Falls — are painters.

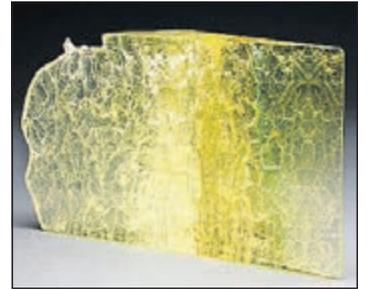
Rubinstein creates brilliantly colored still lifes, usually domestic scenes with tables, chairs, flowers or fruit. Her work often uses quirky lines and, always, vibrant and contrasting colors.

In "Lichtenstein on the Wall," an armchair and table with a vase of flowers grace the foreground and a painting referencing the work of Roy Lichtenstein hangs on a green wall behind.

Thirty-two small (8-by-8-inch) paintings — each portraying a piece of furniture, flowers or fruit — are hung in five horizontal rows on one wall of the gallery, a friendly and lively arrangement with much to view.

Bexley resident Marti Steffy offers abstract oils on canvas, many referencing patterns in nature. "From the Terrace" appears to be a landscape of grasses created in pastels that look like colored chalk. "Mediterranean Evening" — with its bold red, orange, gold and blue swatches of color — suggests a European festival or dramatic sunset.

Judy Favret Friday, a Connecticut artist who grew up in Upper Arlington, paints landscapes in shades of blue and white. Some are realistic, such as "October Inlet"; but most, including "Summer



"Wild Cherry in Yellow" by Joel O'Dorisio

At a glance

■ Paintings by Judy Favret Friday, Paula Rubinstein, Marti Steffy and glass by Joel O'Dorisio continue through Nov. 26 at Art Access Gallery, 540 S. Drexel Ave., Bexley. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call 614-338-8325, or visit www.artaccessgallery.com.

Sky," are pure abstraction.

The lone glass artist is Joel O'Dorisio, who grew up in Columbus and teaches at Bowling Green State University.

In his artist statement, he says he uses "optically pure glass to create a theater within the glass for light to play." His pieces are lovely and mesmerizing, including the clear "Plum Wedge," in which a mold of textured tree bark on one side is reflected through the glass wedge. Likewise, the patterns of cherry bark lend surprise and texture to "Wild Cherry in Yellow."

O'Dorisio's glass pieces beautifully complement the colorful and individualistic works of the three painters.

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"Lichtenstein on the Wall" by Paula Rubinstein