

Community Artists at
the Tully Health Center



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Stamford Health System **Art From The Heart**

The Tully Health Center: By design we've made the word "health" part of our name. From the earliest planning stages, our foundation – both physical and philosophical – has been erected upon that concept. Every medical service we offer, every public space and private room we design and construct, every individual who works here, is committed to helping you achieve health and well-being, of both body and soul.

We hope you'll take time to notice and enjoy the works of art that are displayed throughout the building. Many of these pieces were commissioned specifically for the Tully Health Center. The artists are esteemed members of our local community — a diverse group of men and women who have interpreted our themes of health and wellness with a unique voice and perspective. Their generosity enables us to offer this extraordinary selection of beautiful paintings, prints, collages and sculpture as a way to nurture your spirit while we care for your mind and body.

To your health!



Brian G. Grissler
President & CEO

“Safeguard the health
of body and soul.”

–Cleobulus

Kevin Thomas



Ceramics artist Kevin Thomas, a Stamford resident, is a former president and current board member of the Loft Artists Association, for which he developed the "Performance Series" by writing and receiving the first SCDC grants available in 1999 and 2000. He has also served on the University of Connecticut Stamford Community Gallery Advisory Board. "Being involved with enriching my community and expressing my commitment to an engaged civic life is paramount to the choices I make in volunteerism," he says.

A graduate of the University of Hartford/Hartford Art School, Thomas currently owns and operates an art fabrication business, Kevin Thomas Studios, which produces pieces for galleries around the country, including David Swirner Gallery in New York City and Donald Young Gallery in Chicago. Thomas' work has been exhibited widely throughout the tri-state area. He teaches at NYU and Silvermine School of Art and is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including The Mollie & Albert Jacobson Memorial Award for Best Sculpture in the 52nd Annual "Art of the Northeast" show at Silvermine (2001).

“These works are intended to allow viewers to rest their eyes, mind and spirit. Many people feel anxiety in hospitals – I hope my work will relax people who might be feeling uncomfortable. Having my pieces displayed in this setting is very special to me.”

Francine Funke



Francine Funke has extensive expertise in many aspects of art – from traditional painting, drawing and sculpture, to large installations and murals, to graphic design and illustration, to three-dimensional pop-up design, which is the form on display in the Women's Breast Center. These warm and colorful pieces are intended to evoke a sense of warmth and nurturance.

Ms. Funke has exhibited her work all over America. She has had pieces on display at the Russell Senate Rotunda on Capitol Hill in Washington in an exhibition sponsored by Senator Joseph Lieberman; at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts; and at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale. Her work has been featured in numerous galleries on the East Coast, including New York City venues such as Barbara Braathen, Phyllis Weil and Walter Wickiser Galleries in Soho; at Aaron Gallery in Washington D.C.; and the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton, NY. Last fall, Ms. Funke had a solo exhibition entitled ON FIRE at the Rich Forum Art Gallery in Stamford.

Ms. Funke received a BFA from Cornell University and an MFA from Hunter College in New York City. She lives in Stamford.

“Women feather nests –
for themselves, those they love,
and the things they love.
A woman’s home and
surroundings have a direct
effect on the way she feels.
I hope my artwork makes
women smile – that the scenes
I depict conjure up
happiness and serenity.”

Lina Morielli



Artist/arts activist Lina Morielli is involved in many aspects of the local art scene in the Stamford area, currently serving as the president of Stamford's Loft Artists Association and a member of the University of Connecticut at Stamford Arts Committee. Educated at the Parsons School of Design in New York City, Morielli's career has ranged widely from developing crafts projects for E. I. DuPont and other clients, to working as craft editor at *Woman's Day Magazine* and *Family Circle*, to educator/art director for nonprofit organizations including the "I Have a Dream®" Foundation. She created "Miracles – The Special Delivery Cow" for Stamford Health System's Neonatal Unit entry for the city's Cow Parade in 2000. She lives in Stamford with her husband and son.

The pieces on display at the Tully Health Center were commissioned specifically for the Cardiac Unit. All depict hearts in various stages of reassembly or repair.

“These pieces are about hearts being taken apart and reassembled to work better. As I worked, I realized that when you have heart problems, the heart is in constant repair – and in fact, in life, the heart is in a state of constant change.”

Debra Lill



Debra Lill's main career is working as a freelance photographic illustrator, producing an average of 30 book covers each year for such well-known authors as Belva Plain, Mary Higgins Clark and James Patterson. Recently, she rented a studio in Stamford to devote time to a personal passion – painting landscape scenes. "In the mountains of New Hampshire, the weather can change dramatically at a moment's notice," she says. "One minute you are looking up at a clear blue sky and then unexpectedly, clouds come in and you are in the middle of a storm. Many times the storm passes as quickly as it came, and gives way to the sun again – for this reason, skies are a strong element in all my work, since they provide a perfect metaphor for the ever-changing aspect of life itself."

Lill grew up in Greenwich, where she attended The Greenwich Academy. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and a member of the Loft Artists Association, Lill has returned to her hometown with her husband and new baby daughter, Trinity Nicole.

“These paintings represent not only the expanse of nature, but the feeling of accomplishment that comes from finally reaching the mountaintop. I hope they remind people that life, like these skies, is continually changing – problems arise, but also can clear up as quickly as they came.”

Maureen Renahan-Krinsley



Maureen Renahan-Krinsley is an accomplished, widely exhibited painter whose work has been featured in numerous juried, small-group and solo shows throughout the Connecticut and New York area. Her work is featured in many private collections as well. Educated at Pratt Institute and Skidmore College, she is an active member of numerous professional associations, both regional and national, and has taught at Silvermine School of Art and The South School in New Canaan. A creative arts therapist, Renahan-Krinsley has run workshops in numerous local hospitals and has served as director of art therapy at the Rye Psychiatric Hospital Center in Rye, N.Y.

Renahan-Krinsley is a resident of New Canaan, and is married to Dr. James Krinsley, director of Adult Critical Care at The Stamford Hospital. Her serene interpretive landscapes are part of the permanent exhibit at the Whittingham Specialty Care Pavilion, in the first floor reception area and on the second floor, in one of the critical care seating areas.

“Broadly speaking, this piece is a kaleidoscope of abstract landscapes. The circular forms within the painting are meant to convey a ‘life force,’ an energy that sustains and enhances life. This painting is in memory of my mother, who died in 2001.”

Elizabeth Hiltz



Elizabeth Hiltz grew up in Fairfield, and currently lives in Westport with her dog, Rembrandt. She earned a BA in Studio Art from Mount Holyoke College in 1988. Her warm, relaxed portraits of people and dogs reflect a calm and thoughtful spirit of tranquility, while her energetic use of fluid, loose brush strokes conveys the health and vigor of her subjects.

Hiltz has exhibited her work extensively over the past 15 years in several national and local venues, including the Red Trike Gallery in Chicago, the HBO Gallery in New York City and the Caron Gallery in Chester. In 1999 her work was part of a group show at the University of Bridgeport, which was juried by Phillip Pearlstein. In 2000 she participated in the national juried show, "Art of the Northeast," at the Silvermine Gallery. More recently she participated in "Fresh Paint," a group show at the Flinn Gallery in Greenwich.

“I’m interested in the emotional level of communication, so I paint from life. Through the process of abstraction and a series of decisions – sometimes intuitive ones – about simplification, gesture, mark, color and light, a mood and feeling are created and a painting evolves that expresses its own life.”

Larry Clapes



Larry Clapes is a graduate of Stamford High School and of the Rhode Island School of Design, where he studied furniture design and architecture. Clapes takes an iconoclastic approach to art and life. Having started a successful business while in college, designing and building trade show displays, he “retired” immediately afterward to spend 12 years in Hawaii, playing golf and living an unstructured life. Moving back to the East Coast several years ago, he supports himself by working in home design and carpentry, and started to paint as a means of expressing his own emotional upheaval.

Clapes works with neither brush nor canvas, using unconventional methods and materials to create works that he doesn't actually “see” until they are finished. Working on Plexiglass sheets, he sprays, drips, blows, throws or smears paint, layer upon layer, then removes the protective sheet of paper when the painting is done. His abstract works — some exuberant and joyful, others intricate, complex, and dark — are an evocation of his emotional state at a particular point in time. More literal pieces, such as the Hawaiian landscapes which hang in the waiting areas at the Tully Health Center, are created by cutting away small pieces of the paper at a time, building the lush, exuberant gardenscapes of leaf and flower. Clapes neither shows nor sells his work, believing, he says, “there is only purity in obscurity.”

“When I moved into my studio I painted a Hawaiian landscape to make the space more comfortable to some inner part of me. So I painted these with the feeling that if they make me comfortable, they might help others feel that way too.”

Renée Kahn



Long-time Stamford resident Renée Kahn is well-known as a historical preservationist, specializing in the rehabilitation of inner-city housing, and an author ("Preserving Porches," Henry Holt, 1990) as well as an artist. In the late 1970s, Kahn began a project of converting her experiences as a preservationist into works of art. A recent project, Box City, consists of over 150 cardboard boxes filled with three-dimensional interpretations of the panorama of urban life. Two of these have been selected for display at the Tully Health Center.

Kahn has shown her work in over 40 group shows and six solo shows around the country. In recent years she has had major exhibitions of her work at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, the Hurlbutt Gallery in Greenwich and at the William Benton Museum at UConn in Storrs. She is a founding member of the Loft Artists Association and in 1999 was guest curator at the Stamford Museum for an exhibit entitled Vulcan's Forge. Kahn was born and educated in New York City and has lived in Stamford for more than 40 years. She has three children and five grandchildren.

“The backgrounds of these three-dimensional collages are old photos of pre-urban renewal Stamford. The figures are hand-colored drawings of street life, taken from my sketches and my imagination. The buildings and the people – they were all disposable. This is my tribute to them.”

Paul Mindell



Paul Mindell creates photo-collage "land-escapes" from location shoots in Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Maine, Nantucket, Quebec, the Caribbean, Mexico and France. The sites are often identifiable, such as Cathedral Rock in Sedona or Madison Square Park in New York City, yet each work is an inventive departure from the reality of the landscape.

A painter by training, Mindell was inspired to work with photographs while traveling with his young daughter a decade ago. Shooting hundreds of pictures at a given scene, he cuts and rearranges them with a painterly technique that has become his personal signature. Eleven of his panoramic vistas are exhibited around the indoor track at the Health & Fitness Institute. Mindell hopes they will be invigorating for people working to regain their health. "A number of years ago, a family member of mine was treated with great kindness and care at The Stamford Hospital," he says. "That makes the inclusion of my work at the Tully Health Center especially meaningful to me."

Mindell, a Norwalk resident since 1984, has works in private, corporate and museum collections. He received his BFA at the University of Michigan and his MAT from Rhode Island School of Design.

“My photo collages reinvent the realities of my city and landscape location shoots. Each is vibrantly alive with its own unique energy and mystery. Whether seen up close or from a distance, each one draws you in. I like how that creates a sense of wonder and intrigue.”

Jane de Jonge



A lifelong resident of Stamford, Jane de Jonge works with pieces of “treasure” she finds in the trash and at tag sales to create sculpture that serves as social commentary on themes such as play and consumerism.

De Jonge holds a master’s degree from both Mount Holyoke College and Columbia University. Her work is part of the permanent collection at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University and has been shown at the Mira Mar Gallery in Sarasota, the Brownson Gallery at Manhattanville College in Purchase, and in numerous Connecticut museums. Her work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *The Stamford Advocate* and other publications, and she has received several awards.

The fact that de Jonge was born at The Stamford Hospital and had her own two sons there, lends special significance to the invitation to exhibit at the Tully Health Center. As a teenager, she volunteered for St. Joseph Hospital on the same site. “It is a joy for me to continue to be part of the history of the city of my birth, and of my heart,” says de Jonge.

“Anyone can have a piece of the American Pie – if we weren’t born to it, didn’t win it, haven’t yet earned it, we can yet find it – maybe by shopping! These pieces reflect the diversity and energy and dreams of this community.”

Debra Schaffer



Debra Schaffer is known for her delightful, three-dimensional collages of European market scenes. She works with multiple layers of photographs taken at various places or events, cut up like pieces of a puzzle and reassembled into a painting in the manner of a photo collage. She incorporates other elements – such as stones, wood, handmade clay items and miniatures – into the finished piece.

Schaffer's work is included in well over 100 private collections around the country. She has exhibited widely throughout the tri-state area. She has received numerous awards for her work, including most recently the Grumbacher Award and Gold Medallion for the 2001 Northern Westchester Center for the Arts Show, juried by Debra Singer of the Whitney Museum of Art, and first prize at the Katonah Museum Artists Association Members Show in 2000. Her pieces have been shown at many galleries in the area, and are continually represented at the Caron Gallery in Chester, and at Images Gallery in Briarcliff Manor.

Schaffer is a member of numerous artists' organizations. She holds a BA from Montclair State College, and currently lives in Armonk.

“My three-dimensional technique derives from my years as a stone and wood sculptor, and adds depth and perspective to what otherwise would be a series of flat photographs. The flower market is a recollection of a pleasant experience that I hope will transport others to the same place.”

Hoby Rosen



Creator of the delightful family scene to be displayed in the Tully Health Center lobby this fall, Stamford resident Hobo Rosen is a well-known sculptor whose pieces have been widely exhibited in the New York metropolitan area. Rosen works primarily in wax for bronze casting and also creates both literal and abstract pieces in wood. A tennis player inspired by athletes in motion, he recently has begun a new series of figurative works intended to convey a sense of movement.

Rosen's work has been exhibited locally at The Landmark Club, the Loft Artists Open House, the Mayor's Gallery in Stamford and in numerous other galleries and shows throughout Connecticut. His pieces are sold nationally through The Collectors Guild. He has been a juror for the Rowayton Art Center Sculpture Show and for the Stamford Camera Club. Mr. Rosen was educated at Johns Hopkins University and at the University of Southern California, where he studied motion picture production. He also works with photography and poetry.

“I really believe that the family is at the heart of any community. The family that lives together, that works together and, in the case of my sculpture, plays together – plays together in health.”

Vivien White & Katharine Sachs



Vivien White (left) & Katharine Sachs

A longtime supporter of the arts, board member for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, and a Stamford resident for close to 50 years, Vivien White was instrumental in bringing this collection of *Art From The Heart* from idea to reality. She was involved in the very first meetings, where the concept of a permanent collection of works from professional artists in and around the city of Stamford, speaking to the themes of family, hope, tranquility, serenity, nature and life, was developed. Her knowledge of the local arts scene, and personal contacts with many of the artists featured in the collection, proved invaluable.

"Art From The Heart" was planned, coordinated and executed by Katharine Sachs, a designer, art dealer and partner in the firm Art & Interiors Inc./The Barn. A longtime resident of North Stamford, Sachs took charge of every aspect of this exhibition – from brainstorming the possibilities, to working with the artists in selecting the works to be included, to framing, to directing the final exhibition arrangements.

“I hope we are bringing home to the public how important art is in life, how important it is to speak to the soul as well as care for the body.”

–Vivien White

“We wanted to find art that would touch as many lives as possible, because I believe that art plays a role in healing.”

–Katharine Sachs

Stamford Health System would like to acknowledge the contribution of the gifts of expertise, energy, and enthusiasm, and an unflagging commitment of time and effort, from Kathy Sachs and Vivien White. Without the efforts of these women, both of whom are well-known in our local community of artists, it would have been impossible to bring this exhibit to the Tully Health Center.