

Smithtown Township Arts Council/Mills Pond House Gallery
660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780
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Outside the Box



**Mary Ahern, Kyle Blumenthal
JoAnn Dumas, Paul Farinacci**

Today's artists are stretching the boundaries of their art...experimenting with new modes of display...embracing several media to reinvent their artwork...combining and working across disciplines.

Outside the Box will feature four Long Island artists who are stretching the boundaries of their mediums with innovative techniques, giving us new avenues to explore the meaning of art and its relationship to our lives.

Exhibition Dates:
May 31 - June 28, 2014
Opening Reception
Saturday May, 31 2 - 4 pm

A traditional Fine Artist, **Mary Ahern** spent most of her life painting in oils and watercolors. In her professional career, she also spent decades immersed in computer graphics. Today the artist has created Digital Mixed Media Paintings as a new Genre of Fine Art for herself. Melding digital media & traditional mediums, Mary constantly explores the mixing of the vast array of new materials on the market to enhance and expand her creative vision. With a deep interest in Art History, Mary explores, through Digital mediums, a reinterpreting of the work of historical artists and genres. Her Digital Mixed Media Paintings build upon her expertise in classical process, which allows her to create her compositions and paint directly on the computer using a pressure sensitive stylus and tablet. Whether creating drawings, watercolor mixed media paintings or digital art, Mary embraces many styles, mediums and uses very different steps towards creating her work. "My Art is driven by the pursuit of multiple passions. In my garden, I grow the delicate and ephemeral models that are the subjects of my paintings. I transform them through a complex series of digital technologies and traditional mediums."

Kyle Blumenthal's life is steeped in the arts. An Illustrator, a Fine Artist, a Stage Designer and an Art Educator, she experiments through various media, encouraging the viewer to contemplate and interact with her paintings. She experiences life as an artist, always looking at color, shadow and form in order to better portray them on canvas. Working in many disciplines simultaneously, Kyle paints with oils on canvas and scrim, sometimes incorporating fabrics and light. Attempting to capture the personality of her subjects and portray their energy, Kyle selects unique materials through which her subjects appear to become animated and sometimes ethereal. Kyle uses combinations of transparencies, and translucent and opaque materials in her presentations, always searching for new methods to convey her visions through her art.

Photographer **JoAnn Dumas** has an affinity with nature and, in particular, the waters of Long Island. Her work with experimental modes of display has allowed her to push the boundaries of her photography as both medium and art form. Constantly seeking new ways to engage audiences with her subject, Joann experiments with new mediums and innovative uses of materials to create her work, hoping that viewers will feel the swirling of the water, and see the shimmering, wind-driven ripples of the waters in her exhibited work. "Translucency, reflections, patterns and forms are what I see when I photograph our local waters. The tantalizing qualities of water provide an endless source of inspiration to me. My captured images have led me on an elusive path to discover mediums that will simulate these qualities of water that I find so mesmerizing."

Coming from a conventional fine arts college background, **Paul Farinacci** was taught the traditions of drawing, painting, photography and sculpture and the use of (archival) materials and media. His recent series of illuminated architectural sculptures and mixed media works on paper expand the boundaries of what may be considered fine art or craft materials, 2D and 3D conventions, as well as, creating from scratch or repurposing. Starting from a discarded cardboard box, the artist literally thinks "outside and inside the box" to create his structures and the hidden worlds within them. He includes drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and now even video inside and outside these creations. "My sculptures are built predominantly from newspapers containing the very stories and headlines addressed in my subject matter." Constructed from cardboard boxes and other recycled materials these earth-friendly structures are then covered with carefully selected written passages from newspapers using a papier-mâché technique. When paint is applied during the final step, visual memories of these written words are lost. Yet their memories still resonate in the completed work. What is depicted examines the effects of media and technology and the diminishing distinction between our public and private realms.