

CALADAN GALLERY

"CREATURES: A juried exhibition of 15 national and international artists

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CALADAN GALLERY presents a juried exhibition of 15 national and international artists entitled **"CREATURES: SWIM, FLY, CRAWL"**. As they bless our lives with diversity, we realize that each animal represents an aspect of our own humanity: an otter, innocence and joy; a leopard, stealth, independence and aspiration; a parrot, an ability to find the irony in experience. We have found innovative works representing animals; those that find a way to provide witness to ourselves. What is amazing is the depth of self-discovery that occurs when we find ourselves in the company and realm of animals. When we are wide awake we seek to make their existence better. In turn, when we seek beauty we find it in the eyes of an animal.

MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: "CREATURES: SWIM, FLY, CRAWL":

The Solo Exhibition Award Winners are **Jon Hyde** and **Kimberly Sultze** (Colchester, VT). They state: "I see you seeing me. It's the moment of eye contact between the human and the non-human animal. The recognition and acknowledgment. A communicated act. A memory. Our work explores and celebrates human-animal connection and interaction through the medium of photography. We humans say to the individual animals: We recognize you. We acknowledge your beauty, your difference, your particular variety of emotion and intelligence, and your survival. The process behind our photography is as important as the final images. It frequently involves a closeness—a few feet, or a matter of yards. Two species on the same field of existence. It also involves slowness and silence. For us, getting out into nature and our wild spaces is a way to make eye contact with the more-than-human world; to slow down and take the time to stare it in the face and acknowledge its right to exist. When you move into a place, you get to know the neighbors. You make eye contact. You put a name to a face. Our wild spaces—and the wild creatures that inhabit them—deserve no less."

Susan Johnson Bergin (Cambridge, MA) states: "I spent 25 years in the darkroom printing both color and B+W for some of New England's top professional photographers, and even operated my own custom lab for 9 years. But after changing careers, the need to create was too strong. I relearned my craft using the digital platform and am now concentrating on my own visions. I usually focus on the greater landscape, but all creatures are a critical part of that landscape..."

Works by **Robert Bootier** (Ballston Spa, NY), in addition to the obvious skill employed by the artist, capture the dignity and personality of the subject animals. The personalities of the individual animals are highly reflected, and their characters are etched deeply into their faces. At once, the animal is depicted with perfection, yet there is an exploration of color and form present in the paintings. This is what serves to enrich the portraits with energy and presence.

Adrienne Ginter (Watertown, MA) states of her detailed paintings:

"My approach to art is that of an exploration into the reoccurring oddities and subtle fascinations of the natural world. The uniqueness of it all provides me with aesthetic inspiration, and I draw parallels between these narratives and the stories of human beings- whether from ancient myths, history, or my own personal experiences. Every scene in nature tells a million little stories, and I work to incorporate an extreme amount of detail to tell not only the macro, but the micro stories in a scene. This gives the viewer a greater sense of depth, not only visually, but narratively, depending on how close they choose to engage with the piece."

Micah R. O. Litant (Allston, MA) states: "Through the act of painting, drawing, and printmaking, I seek to exorcise my moral and ideological imperatives and position a discourse around how and why we construct our personalities and lifestyles. I utilize animals, toys, and dolls as catalysts to broach a discussion of dominant culture, mass-production, and the mediation of life and perception by economic interests. I hope to lay bare the spectacle of mass culture and make transparent its ploys of persuasion through a considered balance and exploration of composition, subject matter, and the mediums and methods I use."

Maria Lux (Urbana, IL) succeeds in an acute irony associated with her subject matter. She manages to bring the persona of the individual animal to the forefront while simultaneously depicting each individual as nothing more than the member of a pack - that is, a mass of what humans consciously or subconsciously label according to: 1) Vermin nature 2) Food nature 3) Substitute human. In a world where humans themselves are facing daily de-personalization due to circumstance, media, poorly designed expectations, how much better do the animals stand to fare?

NEW MEMBERS' NEWS

CALADAN GALLERY is happy to welcome **Jan Kirchoff** to its membership. She states of her nature-centered assemblages: "...As a self-taught artist, I realize and appreciate the fact that each day, each moment is another opportunity for me to learn something new and develop a fresh and improved set of skills. My specialty is in designing original, handmade home décor with silk and natural materials. Many of my designs originated in nature's nursery. When I find something new or unique, passions imagination takes over. Some may call me a "florist" and many have branded me as "The Flower Lady", but to me and those who appreciate my creativity, I am an individual whose hunger for creative passions is fed by my artwork." "My designs are not complete until I consider them to be a new masterpiece."

COMPLETE LIST OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS IN "CREATURES: SWIM, FLY, CRAWL":

Jon Hyde and Kimberly Sultze, *Solo Exhibition Award Winners*, Colchester, VT – Photography

Susan Johnson Bergin, Cambridge, MA – Photography

Robert Bootier, Ballston Spa, NY – Painting

Carrie Chimenti, *Returning Artist*, Milwaukee, WI – Ceramic Sculpture

Ione Citrin, *Gallery Member*, Los Angeles, CA – Painting

Lauren Curtis, *Gallery Member*, Franklin Park, NJ – Photography

Rhonda Franks, Burgessville, Ontario, Canada – Painting

Adrienne Ginter, Watertown, MA – Painting

Hai Ri Han, Naperville, IL – Artist's Books

Chris Johnson, Lexington, SC – Digital Prints/Printmaking

Micah R. O. Litant, Allston, MA – Painting/Drawing

Maria Lux, Urbana, IL – Mixed Media

Louise Mellon, Aiken, SC – Oil Pastel

Joaquin Palencia, Mekati City, Philippines – Mixed Media
Jennifer Rosner, West Hills, CA – Cake Batter and Food Coloring

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