



Art Celebration at Richard J Demato Fine Arts Gallery

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by Pat Rogers

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SAG HARBOR, NY-

There's a lot going on at the Richard J. Demato Fine Arts Gallery. On Saturday, the gallery unveils Art at The Salon. The day-long event features a new group exhibition, an artist painting on site and a salon where creativity and its effects will be discussed and debated. Art at the Salon coincides with the Artwalk Hamptons Gallery Walk, which also takes place on Saturday.

The Thanksgiving Saturday Gallery Walk by Artwalk Hamptons is being held on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. in Sag Harbor, East Hampton, Southampton, Bridgehampton and Amagansett.

Art at the Salon events run from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Richard J. Demato Fine Arts Gallery in Sag Harbor, NY.

Gallerist Richard Demato said the Art at the Salon events were designed to generate excitement about art. The day also provides an in-depth look at the art experience. The full gambit is presented from the creation process to the trajectory the artworks take afterwards. The ways art and creativity is experienced will be explored, including the links between the making, viewing and acquiring of art.



"Beside your Dreams" by Yana Movchan. Oil on linen, 30 x 40 inches.

"We want to create a multilayered experience for our patrons that will help them connect to their 'Inner Experience' with art," said Demato.

"The ability to observe a celebrated artist at work in our 'pop-up studio' will inspire and the variety of works being shown will stimulate our clients and our panel, consisting of artists, writers, a gallerist and collectors, to identify their passion for art through a unique, interactive "Salon" discussion to share our perspectives and enlighten one another," he said.

Art at the Salon begins at 1 p.m. with exhibiting artist Donato Giancola painting at the "pop up studio" at the gallery. Giancola's process will be observable from 1 to 5 p.m. He will also answer questions about his work and techniques.

Giancola's figurative paintings explore the factual and the fantastical. Compositions depict the historical to contemporary life to sci-fi and worlds of fantasy.

Commissions and clients include The United Nations, Lucasfilm, National Geographic, CNN, DC Comics, Microsoft, The Sci-Fi Channel (now Syfy), Scholastic, Simon & Schuster and others. Giancola is an award-winning painter with awards bestowed by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, the World Science Fiction Society, the Art Renewal Center and others, according to his [website](#).



"Allegory for the Americas" by Donato Giancola. Oil on panel, 36 x 48 inches.

The Discussion at the Salon will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Space is limited and an RSVP is necessary. A panel of creatives will explore their relationship to art. The discussion will be moderated by Emily Weitz, a journalist with *The Sag Harbor Express*. To encourage an exploratory frame of mind, the gallery provided this introduction to the concept of a salon:

"A Salon is defined as "A gathering of people under one roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation."



"Here and Today" by Margo Selski. Oil and beeswax on canvas, 40 x 30 inches.

Demato hopes the ensuing discussion will explore the connection between art appreciators and the works they enjoy or collect. By hearing what others have to say, the salon may trigger new insights to deepen the relationship with art and individual experiences can expand to include others. This may include revealing what motivates artist to create and art lovers to collect.

"Our hope is that the "Art Lover" will become more comfortable sharing their experience in this environment," said Demato.



"Luna and Abundance" by Eugenio Cuttica. Mixed media on canvas, 75 x 75 inches.

The Art Salon culminates with the opening of a group show featuring gallery artists. Works by two artists who are new to the gallery are included. They are Eugenio Cuttica and Margo Selski. Other

featured artists include Harriet Sawyer, Bart Vargas, Jack Gerber, Kevin Muenta, Yana Movchan, Donato Giancola and others.

Here's a sneak peek at some of the art on view:



“Fantasy Reality” by Harriet Sawyer. Oil on canvas, 40 x 60 inches.



“Man and His Dog” by Jack Gerber. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 60 inches.



“King of the Hill” by Kevin Muenta. Oil on canvas, 48 x 36 inches.



“Eastern Self Portrait” by Bart Vargas. Mixed media, 40 x 32 x 2 inches.

BASIC FACTS: Art at the Salon takes place on Saturday, Nov 24, from 1 to 9 p.m. Events include artist Donato Giancola painting at the gallery's “pop up” studio from 1 to 5 p.m.; a Discussion at the Salon from 6 to 7 p.m. and the opening of a new group exhibition from 7 to 9 p.m.

All events are free. Reservations are requested for the conversation at the salon by contacting the gallery. The group exhibition will be on view from Nov 24 to Dec 31, 2012.

Richard J. Demato Fine Arts Gallery is located at 90 Main St, Sag Harbor, NY 11963. For details, call 631-725-1161 or visit rjdgallery.com.