



Photogs & Painters Featured in a Meet the Artists Weekend

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by Pat Rogers

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CUTCHOGUE, NY-

This weekend draws a group of painters and photographers to discuss their inspiration and use of photography in the work. "Meet the Artists" artist talks take place on Saturday and Sunday at the Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery on the North Fork. The weekend-long event is timed to coincide with the "Taste of North Fork" event unfolding in spots around the North Fork.

"We wanted to participate as the newest and only photography gallery on the North Fork," said gallerist and photographer Alex Ferrone. "Our goal for the event is to connect the public with some of the artists who have exhibited here, or who exhibit in the area, to learn about their personal inspirations from photography. This event also furthers the point that the North Fork has a thriving contemporary art community."

"Taste North Fork" is a new initiative by the Long Island Wine Council and East End Tourism Alliance to promote the North Fork as a destination during the East End's tourism shoulder season.

"Meet the Artists" is a series of one-hour talks featuring prominent, award-winning fine art photographers and painters from the North and South Forks. Participating are painters Charles Wildbank and Hector deCordova and photographers Alex Vignoli, and Jim Sabiston. Each will demonstrate and discuss photography and its use in their works.

Wildbank will discuss photorealism; deCordova will talk about photo-referencing in painting; Vignoli will present the subject of photomontage and Sabiston will discuss fine art iPhoneography. Each artist will have work on view in the gallery. Also on view is the photography exhibition "Alterations: Works by Carolyn Conrad and Sandi Daniel". An Artists Reception is being held tonight (Friday) from 6 to 8 p.m.

All of the "Meet the Artists" talks include complimentary Wine Tasting Cards for *Waters Crest Winery*. Talks take place on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday:

11 a.m. - Charles Wildbank - Photorealism

Wildbank will refer to his large-scale paintings as reference for the genre of Photorealism. He will also demonstrate how he prepares his photographs on his laptop and uses them as sketches

positioned on his easel. Wildbank is based in Jamesport on the North Fork.



Charles Wildbank working on “Nap”. Courtesy Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery.

1 p.m. - Hector deCordova - Photo-referencing in Painting:

deCordova will speak about the use of photographs as references for elements of his paintings. He will also discuss the importance of photography in preserving fleeting moments for future paintings. deCordova is based in Greenport on the North Fork.



“Kites” by Hector deCordova. Courtesy Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery.

Sunday

Noon and 3 p.m. - Alex Vignoli - Photomontage:

Utilizing specific image-editing software, Vignoli will be demonstrating methods he uses for the creation of photographic composites and the blending of two or more images to produce an entirely new concept image for his fine art photography. Vignoli is based in Water Mill on the South Fork.



“Bridge Over Harbor” by Alex Vignoli. Photo courtesy Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery.

1:30 p.m. - Jim Sabiston - Fine Art iPhoneography:

Sabiston, a fine art photographer, will speak about how he uses his iPhone to capture, edit, and process images for fine art photographs giving particular attention to the growing selection of powerful image processing apps he uses for his work. Sabiston is based in Bay Shore in Suffolk County, Long Island.



“Crossing 3rd” by Jim Sabiston. Photo courtesy Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery.

Whether visitors attend one lecture or all four, Ferrone hopes people will gain insight into photography as a tool and genre. The talks also allow to discover artists on the East End and get to know their work.

“I would also like folks to have a better appreciation for contemporary fine art photography in general with an awareness of the extensive styles, processes, and methods,” said Ferrone. “Each artists uses photography a different way to realize the completion of their artwork. It’s not as simple as “taking a photo.”

When the weekend is over, the gallery will continue to provide opportunities to commune with and learn from photographers exhibiting at the gallery. Every new exhibition includes a Gallery Talk where the artists discuss their work. They are typically held on Sunday mornings with coffee, tea and danish provided to sweeten the deal.

“Gallery Talks are an additional way for the visitors to meet the exhibiting artist and establish a personal connection,” said Ferrone. “It’s also a chance to learn further about the artists’ processes...and creates another opportunity to meet the artists [in addition to the Opening Reception].”

The Artists Talks also help create a buzz that the North Fork is a thriving contemporary art community, said Ferrone.

“Within that thought, I hope that the Talks, along with the selection of exhibiting artists here at the Gallery, will create a better awareness of contemporary photography as a fine art. In doing so, more photographers will get necessary promotion and recognition; and hopefully more connections will be made for them with art collectors, designers, and appreciating viewers.”

BASIC FACTS: “Meet the Artists” will take place this weekend at the Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery, 25425 Main Road, Cutchogue, NY. www.AlexFerrone.com. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Thursday to Sunday and by appointment.