

NOTED ARTISTS FINKE and FITZGERALD FEATURED AT GARRISON ART CENTER

by Carinda Swann, Executive Director, Garrison Art Center

Garrison Art Center features two extraordinary artists in its galleries March 5-28, 2010, Leonda F. Finke and Astrid Fitzgerald.

Leonda F. Finke's artistic endeavors began as a young child and continue to this day. She began evening classes during the Great Depression and continued her studies at the Art Students League and the Educational Alliance during WWII.

Finke's bronze figures, primarily of women, are "both calm and tortured: heroic and sympathetic," according to David Finn, photographer of the 2006 book *Leonda Finke*. "Their roughly textured surfaces give them power beyond their solitary poses, as they stand, sit, recline, crouch and twist, all the while seemingly immersed in their own thoughts."

Jonathan Harding, Curator of The Century Association recently wrote of Finke's work, "She captures the scope and breadth of life, moments of joy or sorrow, and leaves the ultimate decision as to meaning up to the individual viewer." Finke comments, "...visual art cannot be explained logically; if I could do my job with words, I'd be a poet."

Several medium to small bronze pieces will be shown along with a series of Finke's figure drawings. Her large scale bronze figures will be included in CURRENT 2010, Garrison Art Center's summer sculpture exhibition on the grounds of Boscobel and on the grounds of Garrison Art Center.

In the Gillette Galleries Astrid Fitzgerald will debut her new assemblages, enhanced by the saturated colors and geometric forms of her large canvas hangings. The artist's discovery on her property of a treasure trove of old copper pipes and rough-cut lumber, among other aging items of construction, inspired the assemblages. With the help of time and the wise artistic vision of Fitzgerald, these somewhat rough objects combine to become this quiet and spiritually elegant collection.

Dr. Roger Lipsey, noted art historian, editor and author of numerous books will present a talk on Fitzgerald's work on March 21, at 3pm in the Art Center's Gillette Gallery. His viewing of a few of the featured works piqued his interest, and the following initial commentary offers a brief review specific to this body of work.

"Astrid Fitzgerald's assemblages explore the relationships between a surprising and fresh notation for everything buoyant and untouched in us (the blue-green rods, steady and vibrant) and everything else of which we and the world are made (the containments, ties, and other elements in the assemblages). The rods imply a moderately complex order inside: joyous in color, disciplined and definite nonetheless. The containments and ties are not negative presences, as if they deny brightness. Are they a figure for 'how things are'? Every inside has an outside, all living relationships are dynamic interactions.

"Abstraction in art is still our native language in the 21st century—or one of the native languages in our polyglot world. Fitzgerald speaks it with depth and flair. It approaches us as an enigma: what are we being told? And like a poem slowly offers meaning."

There will be a public reception in the galleries to honor the artists on March 5, 6-8 pm. Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Depot Square on Garrison's Landing in Garrison, New York and is a short stroll from the Metro North Hudson Line's Garrison Stop. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday 10am – 5pm. For more information on this and other exhibitions please visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.