



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL



Assemblage Artist Biographies and Statements

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**Council on
the Arts**



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Guest Juror

Po Zhang

Po Zhang aka Popo is from China and has a history as an art professor with a degree in Fine Art. He came to the US 12 years ago in hopes of spreading his knowledge, and experience around the world. He has an interest in assemblage using recyclable materials, and old objects, as a way to help our environment with his love of art under his production NYPO.ART.

He has also been a known artist in the scale modeling industry as a member of the IPMS (International plastic model society) for an extended time.



Michael Ach



Bird of Fire
Wood, Ceramic, Metal, Four Ply Board, 15.5" x 21.5" x 4"
NFS

Artist Statement:

These assemblages start with a found object as a prompt. From the inspiration of that first piece of wood, wire, ceramic, metal, or flotsam, I go on to sculpt, paint, and assemble a box or frame filled with forms and content. Though based on years of the study of nature, art, and humanity these visionary pieces are mysterious dream manifestations of the unconscious mind. Increasingly the work is informed by the climate crisis, and the tsunami of changing times we live in.

Bio:

Michael E. Ach graduated with a BFA from New York Institute of Technology and an MFA from C.W. Post, LIU. Staff photographer with Newsday 1986 to 2008. Staff Pulitzer prize 1997. Also published New York Times, Newsweek, Time Magazine, Vanity Fair, etc. Permanent collection Morgan Library, Heckscher Museum.



Gilbert Azran



Horus Eye

Copper, Brass, Steel, Aluminum, 11" x 9"

\$2,200

IG: @gilbertazranart

Artist Statement:

My art began with woodworking, which led to metal work and then evolved using all different media: plexiglass, paint, mosaic and found objects. I'm driven by the hunt for interesting materials that I can mold to express whimsical or thought provoking works, transforming discarded junk into objects to please and inspire.

Bio:

Growing up in Morocco in the 1950's, I was fascinated by the artisans I encountered daily, mostly using their hands to create their craft. I left Morocco for New York in my teens, graduated college and pursued a career in men's fashion and real estate investment. Once retired, I discovered my own love of working with my hands, which developed into an exploration of creating art using different media.



Karen Celella



Moon Glow 1170

Origami Paper, Wire, 18" x 14" x 2"

\$695

IG: @karencelella

FB: kcelella

www.karen-celella.pixels.com

www.karen-celella-art.myportfolio.com

Artist Statement:

Karen Celella is a New York artist working with fine art photography, origami curtains (Senbazuru=1000 cranes) mobiles and wall art, quilling, paper art - mandalas, and mixed media. Each one enhances a different aspect of life for the purpose of attracting and sharing positive energy. Origami has provided a meditative exercise as the foundation and expands into a creative vision requiring precise planning, organizing and finishing. Paper Quilling allows for smaller works of joy. Paper Mandalas represent intricate, intimate emotions. Pieces are designed to represent nature, symbology, and emotions

Bio:

Karen Celella is a New York artist with work found in new homes across the nation and around the world including TV studios, public spaces, publications, books, magazines, cards, directories, advertisements, web sites, collectors and private homes. Works have been in many exhibits and contests, being honored with awards. May you find works that touch your emotions.



Patricia Pepe-Clark



GRAND SCHEME

Mixed media, 16" x 18" x 3.5"

\$1,200

FB: patricia.pepeclark

IG: @designdecisionresources

Artist Statement:

GRAND SCHEME is the converse of the adage "don't sweat the small stuff". In the end you realize your real limitation is time.

Bio:

Patricia Pepe-Clark is an internationally renowned Industrial Designer & Real Estate Rehabilitator. She has taught Computer Graphics, Object Design & lectured at Fashion Institute of Technology, Dowling College & Nassau Community College. Her drawings, paintings, installation art & computer generated designs have been exhibited both nationally and internationally. Patricia has received multiple awards in a wide range of mediums including painting, drawing & product design. "All the aspects of my profession come together to inspire each work of art that I create".



Christopher Conte



Endoskull

Found Object, 11" x 17"

\$12,500

IG: @conte_sculpture

FB: christopher.conte

Artist Statement:

My work attempts to mimic the grace and symmetry found in the natural world. Using mechanical parts as a substitute, I hope to help reveal the intricate complexity lying below the surface..

Bio:

Having worked in the prosthetics field for 16 years, Christopher Conte uses a wide range of experience and construction methods to create his unique one-of-a-kind bio mechanical sculptures. Diverse materials and components used in both the aerospace industry and the medical field have found their way into his work. While a strong connection with futurism is present in all of Chris' work, ancient techniques such as lost-wax casting have also become a part of his process. His sculptures have appeared in Wired Magazine, The Discovery Channel, Discover Magazine, MTV Networks and in Popular Science to name a few. His work is held in the private collections of individuals like Mark Parker, the executive chairman of Nike, Inc.



Valerie Doyle



Flutter

Stain glass Metal and Wood, 24" x 38"

\$850

www.themagicediblegarden.com

IG/FB/LinkedIn: Val Doyle

Artist Statement:

Butterflies are important pollinators in our environment that pollinate our food, plants and flowers. Beautiful air filled veins, so delicate and necessary. The butterfly is a story of rebirth and transformation of new life after the metamorphosis process. More than 80 percent of land plants are pollinated by animals such as butterflies. Pollen sticks to the bodies of pollinators when they feed on nectar, a sugary fluid produced by flowering plants to attract pollinators. They taste with their feet and drink with their proboscis. The two tiny sail like wings that glide, float, flicker and flutter made of crystals, clear and iridescent glass and wood. The three dimensional work changes color throughout the day.

Bio:

Valerie Doyle was born and raised on Long Island, New York, 30 minutes from Manhattan. After enjoying decades of world, while travel as a design director, merchandiser and sourcing agent for top global fashion companies. It was an invitation from her Alamada, the Fashion Institute of Technology, to advance in a 20 year career as a Long Island high school Art and S.T.E.M. teacher. After retiring, she found Cornell Master Gardener projects to enjoy and a love for drawing and creating art about pollinators, which led to seven books, most popular book The Magic Pollinator Pathway.



Patty Eljaiek



Midnight Garden

Thrifted and Found Objects, 18" x 10"

\$100

IG: @pattemade

Artist Statement:

Using gifted, thrifted or found objects has been the focus of my work for over 30 years. These objects have been added to paper, wood, fabric, canvas and almost any other surface at hand. Many tell stories, some that I only know and others that have inspired me. I like to think that my work comes from, and feels at home in, un mundo raro.

Bio:

I am distracted by many things. Words, nature, emotions, a great face! All of these have inspired me at one time or another. They are wrapped up in the magical realism that is genetic when you are born on the coast in Colombia, along with the pop culture seduction of my new country. But mostly, it's the joy of using any materials I have on hand and rising to the challenge of making something tangible from what pops into my head.



Don Gilmer



Fish Fry
Assemblage, 25" x 12" x 3"
\$650

Artist Statement:

While working in a variety of styles I use broken and discarded items to create whimsical to more serious themed assemblages. Whether the piece is whimsical or more serious the goal is to have people recognize the individual items but see the overall purpose it is used in the assemblage. Ultimately the hope is each piece will make people think or smile.

Bio:

Don Gilmer is an outsider assemblage artist. After working for years in the feature film & corporate exhibition industry he now spends time creating assemblages from vintage and discarded items to create unusually themed art.



William Grabowski



The Sojourner
Mixed Media, 36" x 36" x 12"
NFS
www.williamgrabowski.com



Thank You Joe
Mixed Media, 35" x 22" x 4"
NFS
www.williamgrabowski.com

Artist Statement:

I came across many images and objects from my family's heritage. I decided to reinvent them in my own way by creating new pieces joining many of them together. It's my goal to display these pieces in many different venues.

Bio:

Art is very important in my life. I have been an art teacher for 41 years. My goal is to give students the tools to create the work that they desire.



Gabriella Grama



Heart of the Hive

Mixed Media Mosaic Sculpture, 7" x 7" x 10"

\$475

FB: Gabriella Grama Mosaic Art

www.gabriellagramamosaics.com

Artist Statement:

"Heart of the Hive" is a mosaic sculpture that symbolizes the intricate and interconnected nature of our existence. Assembled from a diverse array of materials, the beehive is a metaphor for the collective effort and unity required to sustain life. The heart, the universal symbol of love and life, serves as the central form of the sculpture. The fused glass bees are a testament to the fragile yet vital role of bees in our ecosystem; as an added element, remnants of cloth have been dipped in resin to create the honeycomb structure. "Heart of the Hive" invites viewers to reflect on their own connections with the natural world and each other. It calls for a deeper appreciation of the small yet significant roles we all play in the larger tapestry of life. "Prickly Heart" is a mosaic heart sculpture made from tile, Italian glass smalti, glass rods, and sea spines. The vivid flowers of the cactus bloom brightly, embodying the triumph of life and beauty over adversity. The blossoms signify the potential for renewal and the resurgence of vitality; their vibrant presence contrasts with the cactus's spiny exterior, highlighting the dual nature of strength and vulnerability. "Innocence" is a mosaic assemblage that poignantly explores the theme of loss. It was inspired by the profound grief and loss experienced through tragic events such as school shootings, wars, and the personal stories of friends who have lost children. Each element in the mosaic assemblage reflects the collective sorrow and the fragile beauty of lives lost too soon. The mosaic was crafted from a collection of shells, ceramic doll parts, beads, thimbles, ceramic findings, natural stone, and gold smalti. The assemblage is anchored by the ceramic doll parts, which symbolize the innocence and purity of childhood. Ceramic findings and natural stone are integrated to provide a sense of permanence and strength amidst the fragility. Gold smalti, a luxurious and luminous material, is interspersed throughout the assemblage, symbolizing the precious and irreplaceable nature of the lost lives.

Bio:

Long Island Mosaic Artist trained in the art of classical mosaics, Grama often exhibits at Long Island Art Galleries and Museums. Grama finds mosaic a versatile and flexible medium in which anything can be used: an old piece of China, broken glass, pebbles, shells, grains, bark, sand, etc. The artist experiments with a variety of media and she often blurs the lines between mosaics and fused glass pushing the boundaries of one medium into the other.



Jeffrey Grinspan



Wherever Life Leads You
Multi Element Assemblage, 8" x 10" x 8"
\$750

Artist Statement:

All art starts a conversation. My pieces encourage the viewer to ask why? What? How? What if? And to return, again and again too discover more of the story.

I am forever inspired by the ever changing relationship between shapes, function, form, color and time.

Bio:

Self taught native Long Islander with background in art licensing and art marketing. Specially in dimensional assemblage and black and white graphic series titles "Imperfect Vessels". Inspiration comes from a never ending curiosity of the world in which we live.



Lauren Gotard



Quilt Panel for Paul and Roger
Assemblage, 3' x 6'
NFS
IG: @laurengotard

Artist Statement:

In 1985, Cleve Jones started the AIDS Memorial Quilt inviting loved ones to submit homemade quilt panels celebrating those lost to the disease. Each casket-sized panel elicits the human toll of the epidemic. Through this panel, I honor the lives of poet Paul Monette and his lover Roger Horowitz by referencing Monette's poem "Brother of the Mount of Olives." After discovering undeveloped film from his and Roger's trip to Tuscany, Monette recalls being led by an Italian priest through a cloister and sensing the clergyman too was queer. Then, he wonders about the priests dying of AIDS alone in their cells, highlighting the shame surrounding queerness in the church. In this panel, Catholic objects and gay culture collide, linking two artificially separated communities- queer and ecclesiastical. I combat the stigma put on those who died in silence with a joyful explosion of vintage rosaries and sequins.

Bio:

As a historian, my art is the kind of witty, kick-in-the-head that topples the way history is typically told. Whether hilarious or heartbreaking, I engage in creative acts of destruction that empower voices formerly lost in time.



Julianna Kirk



Resplendent Rubble

Mixed Media, 28" x 16" x 3"

\$750

IG: @juleskirkglass

FB: Julianna Kirk, Glass Artist

Artist Statement:

This entire piece took years to complete. Separate parts collected or developed at different times were left untouched or broken. It all coalesced into one completed piece after 10 years of parts sitting around. Why can we not part with some things? Broken, aged, rusted, impractical, items become too close to us to ever be considered for a landfill. Saving seems to be a matter of the heart, not the intellect. The interconnectedness of these rejoined pieces transcends art into the larger realm of life and intra-personal relationships. We all carry "baggage", our old "stuff". The way we relate and behave may need a new, refreshed look. It can help us emerge from being stuck in unsatisfying behavior and adapt better in relationships and to ourselves in an enlightened way. We must be willing to dig deeply within us and grow stronger through the process. Storms make trees have deeper roots. Can You Hear Me? The desperate, beseeching human plea for mercy from our Earth is revealed in this piece. The diaspora of the climate becoming unsustainable is imagined. The time we have left to right the calamitous wrong our species has inflicted upon the Earth is revealed. The mirror reflects our own responsibility as part of this existential threat. We must own our part as the only intelligent species on Mother Earth that is able to be a good steward of our only home and save ourselves. Metal clock parts, jewels, mirror, rubber placemat, wire sculptures, paint 2020- The sequestering in the year of the pandemic bought me to places emotionally that triggered my need to stop the nonsense in my mind and ground myself to terra firma. This occurred often near the end of life closed in by the virus. Layered glass, wood, metal pieces, surgical mask.

Bio:

Kirk is an artist and educator living on Long Island, NY. She has exhibited her work throughout her life, most abundantly the last 20 years. Her primary love is with glass although she is proficient in other medias. She applies varying materials in her pieces that best communicate her point. She has successfully exhibited her work locally and the tri state area. The awards she garnered have been a highlight for her and her work is owned in many private collections. Her visual influences have been from her travels, personal relationships, and her reaction to environmental issues.



Mei-Ling Louie



Eye of Providence Wicked Witch
Juice Container, Acrylic Paint, Foam, 13" x 6"
NFS
www.etsy.com/shop/garishrubbish

Artist Statement:

These crazy creations, titled, Bottles of BOOs were born out of my recycle bin. They are just one of my ways or morphing junk into joy. I have an ETSY shop called GARISH RUBBISH where you will witness other samples of insanity.

Bio:

Captain Kangaroo said "Busy Hands are Happy Hands" and he's right; making things has become my modus operandi. In my whimsical world, garbage cans become guinea pigs, bottles become bats, jars become night lights and old socks morph into a menagerie of oddities. What else???? I like to make people SMILE! My motto: MAKE FUN OF IT



Meagan Meehan



Tohubohu

Mixed Media, 30" x 23" x 15"

\$1,800

IG: @artsycr8tor

Artist Statement:

I am an abstract artist whose work is bright and colorful. My work aims to combat the darkness and negativity in the world by showcasing cheerfulness, playfulness, creativity, and imagination. If someone looks at my art and smiles, then it has fulfilled its purpose. My work is three-dimensional, formed of many found objects, and celebrates the beauty of recycling. Moreover, I am the founder of the "Conscious Perceptionalism" art practice which prompts viewers to look at my art from 360-degree angles. There is no left, right, up, or down—every individual can choose the direction from which they find my work most pleasing to look upon.

Bio:

Meagan J. Meehan is a published author, poet, cartoonist, and produced playwright and screenwriter. As a freelance journalist, she covers Arts & Entertainment and Lifestyle & Leisure. She is also a stop-motion animator and an award-winning abstract artist. Meagan holds a Bachelors in English Literature from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), a Masters in Communication from Marist College, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning at University at Buffalo (SUNY). Meagan works full-time teaching and designing college-level courses in the fields of English and Communication. She is an animal advocate and a fledgling toy, game, and shoe designer. A curator and art teacher as well as an artist, she is the founder of the "Conscious Perceptionalism" art movement.



Moena Moxham



Taunting Macarons

Bronze, Glass, Mixed Media, 2" x 1.6"

\$3,950

IG: @moenamoxham , @edibleartbymoenamoxham , @cashmerebymoenamoxham

www.moenamoxham.com

Artist Statement:

Moena Moxham (she/he/they, b. 1984, Wellington, New Zealand) is an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersection of social sculpture, performance, textile, and culinary art. Using sugar as the primary medium, edible/perishable items coexist with enduring counterparts cast into bronze, glass, printed onto cashmere or embroidered into textiles. Moena Moxham is a pseudonym for her studio practice and creative projects. Moxham holds a BA (hons) in Textile Design and is trained in graphic and industrial design. She is a self-taught and accredited pastry chef and patissier, and holds a commercial New York Food Protection Certificate. Moxham lives and works in New York.

Bio:

These pivotal sculptures are from the 2024 immersive multimedia installation titled 'Un-Made with Love' which asks us to consider our relationship to sugar as one coded with bodily memory. Viewers are invited to touch and occasionally consume exhibited objects, and reflect on how food can function as a self-healing rite of high worth that links our interior world to an exterior one.

Moena Moxham explores the transformative power of making and sharing food – specifically sugar – while also processing generational and gender-based trauma. Her internal experiences of pleasure, pain, and expectation are presented externally in tactile and perishable objects which viewers are invited to interact with.



Toxic/Nature Studios



Get Well Soon

Trash 3D Sculptural Piece, 19" x 5" x 5"

\$150

IG/FB: @toxicnaturestudios

Artist Statement:

Toxic/Nature Studios features environmental photography that celebrates the majesty of nature and laments its demise, in small moments. Using close-up macro techniques, the photographs express my appreciation for and concern about the environment. As we become increasingly distracted by our devices, we tend to overlook small disasters beneath our feet. Likewise, we can fail to notice the beautiful moments present in nature. I explore these concepts in the "Toxic" and "Nature" galleries on my website ToxicNature.com. Beauty can also be found in the rust, decay, and textures of everyday objects, which I highlight in the "Manufacturer" gallery, found on the website as well. All photos are taken by me, Scott Schneider, with an iPhone, thereby leveraging the power of technology to observe rather than to distract. I take photos every day, no matter where I am or what I'm doing. I don't go out to take pictures; I take pictures because I'm out. From my photographs, I create archival, digital pigment prints using environmentally friendly inks on bamboo paper, which is highly sustainable. In addition to my photos, I have crafted a series of sculptural pieces which I'm calling "3D(isasters)." This thought-provoking artwork is designed to challenge the viewer to make sense of the quantity of litter displayed in a #finditfillit container. I hope that my art will inspire others to notice the world around them and to take action to preserve its natural beauty. We can't do this while plugged in and tuned out. That's why I ask viewers to unplug, look around, and get the small picture. By turning off our blinders of technology, and noticing the small detail of a piece of litter, a fallen petal, or an interesting bit of rust, we can then look up and notice the big picture, which is that the world needs our help. Unplug. Look around. Get the small picture. Scott Schneider.

Bio:

Toxic/Nature Studios features environmental photography that celebrates the majesty of nature and laments its demise, in small moments. Using close-up macro techniques, the photographs express my appreciation for and concern about the environment.



Alice Sprintzen



Redhead

Candy Container, Broom, Machine, Clock and Camera Parts, Brass Stampings, Beads, 11" x 3.5" x 4"
\$650

www.alicesprintzen.com

Artist Statement:

I work mainly with found objects. They speak to past experiences as well as an aesthetic sense of color, form, texture and design. As an inveterate collector and scavenger, I revel in manipulating objects, presenting them in new contexts, giving new meaning to what may have previously been overlooked. The castaway is elevated to a place of honor, the mundane becomes precious and materials rusted, worn by age and discarded, are valued for their intrinsic beauty. Jewelry of this genre is an antidote to the wasteful, consumer oriented direction of modern life. It is a celebration of the inventive use of objects transformed. It challenges the viewer to take a fresh look at the ubiquitous mundane objects that can be appreciated if we only take the time to direct our attention in their direction.

Bio:

Alice Sprintzen is a found object artist who has taught jewelry making and art on the college and high school level as well as at the Art League of Long Island. She is the author of three books on crafts and jewelry making. Her inspiration is informed by the objects themselves. She finds them on the street, at flea markets as well as gifts given from friends who know of her proclivity for the odd object.



Nancy Turetsky



Thirsty Planet
Wood, Plastic, Cardboard, Glass, 19.75", 7.25", 3"
\$400

Artist Statement:

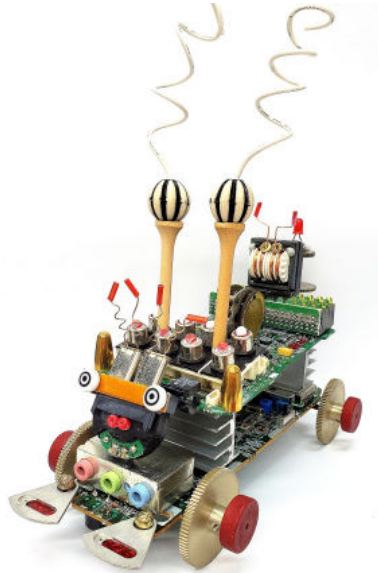
My interest has evolved into recycling found objects to create visual statements meant to engage and/or confront the viewer. Frequently challenged by the boundaries of a box, I combine unrelated discards with paint or collage resulting in my new aesthetic. My current work is partially influenced by a recent trip to Cuba where I had the opportunity to meet with young artists who struggle with limited resources. This led me on a path to dare myself to create mixed media assemblages with limited materials. I am also using my art as an opportunity to pay tribute to those artists that I most admire....Frida Kahlo, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Robert Rauschenberg, Joseph Cornell, and Pablo Picasso.

Bio:

I was a teacher of art for more than 25 years, as well as a working artist. Having received my B.A. from Brooklyn College and my M.A. from C. W. Post, I additionally refined and expanded my art skills by continuing to study at New York University, Queens College, the Brooklyn Museum and the Nassau County Art Museum. Pursuing my own artistic expression, I have worked in a variety of media including painting, printmaking, collage, ceramics, and currently mixed media assemblages.



Nancy Yoshii



I Think I Can

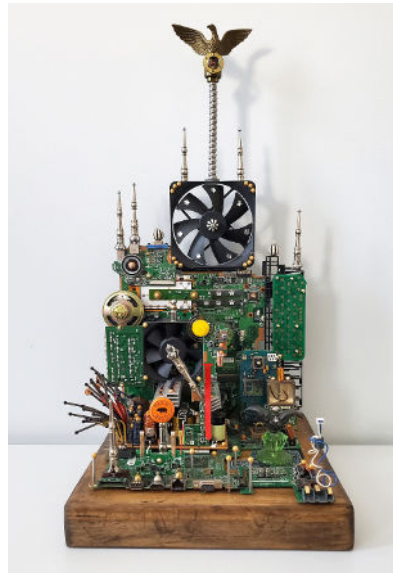
Mixed Media, 9.5" x 10" x 8"

\$750

www.nancyyoshiistudios.com,

IG: @nancy_yoshii_studios,

FB: Nancy Yoshii Studios



Project 2025: The Road to Gilead

Mixed Media, 24" x 12" x 12"

\$1,500

www.nancyyoshiistudios.com,

IG: @nancy_yoshii_studios,

FB: Nancy Yoshii Studios

Artist Statement:

"Project 2025: The Road to Gilead" was inspired by Margaret Atwood's book, "The Handmaid's Tale," and by local and global political events of the last 8 years or so. It contains past disappointments and fears for both the present and the future. "I Think I Can" is a bit of whimsy, mixed with childhood memories.

Bio:

A self-taught artist, I work in collage, paper jewelry, found object sculpture, paper quilts, and other mixed media. My art is composed of a great variety of materials, much of it recycled or retrieved from the trash heap. I derive infinite joy from creating something out of nothing!



Aronda Xystris



Bird House
Mixed Media, 12.5" x 7.5"
NFS

Artist Statement:

For me, rusted metal pieces, dune fencing, cardboard scraps, and other 2D and 3D discards, are often the most fascinating remainders of the environment. Each piece here is a collection of salvaged materials, stored away, until the singular items found their home as a unit. Art is everywhere, and sometimes, you trip over it.

Bio:

I have been a painter, photographer, collagist, and gatherer of found objects, for more than 60 years. Creating for me has always been about seeing beyond the obvious, and finding a unique way of re-imagining it. My base is in Huntington and Fire Island, where much of my inspiration flourishes.