

"Bathers" series by Barbara Postel

"The Bathers," a new series of oil paintings by Barbara Postel, is featured at Blackburn and Yates Gallery in Frenchtown for the summer season.

In her distinctive impressionistic style, Barbara Postel captures the essence of the subject, creating a mood that evokes the memory of moments from the past. Beach scenes circa 1910 to 1936 from the artists collection of photographs inspired "The Bathers."

The painting titled "Elsie & George" represents the artist's parents as teenagers.

Over two decades ago Barbara Postel was recognized as an "exceptionally gifted" artist by prominent artists Raphael Soyer and Joseph Hirsch. In 1968 she was selected by Raphael Soyer as winner of the prestigious Edward G. McDowell Traveling Scholarship (for work abroad) from the Art Students League. She also was the recipient of a Purchase Award for "Self Portrait in sink Mirror" now in the League's permanent collection.

In 1970, returning from Europe, Postel had her first solo exhibition in New York City. Art News critic L. Campbell wrote in his review "she can paint anything - a light bulb, a fish, a mattress, a portrait, a bottle, a mirror with paint splashed on it, a brass kettle - as expertly as anyone - remarkable..." and noted artist Joseph Hirsch wrote "...Bravo! several times for a splendid group of canvases. You have a gift for original landscape - structure on abstract form...."



"1930s Bathers"

Painting by Barbara Postel of Pt. Pleasant, entitled "Four 1930s Bathers I," which is on exhibit at Blackburn & Yates, a Frenchtown gallery.

Born in New York City, and a Delaware Valley resident since 1970, Postel has won many national and regional awards for her paintings. Her drawing "Swimming Hole Bather" was selected by Anne Percy of the Philadelphia Museum of Art for inclusion in the 1989 National Drawing Exhibition. She has also just been chosen as finalist in the Artists Magazine National Portrait Competition. Other Selected Awards include the Lambertville Historical Society, best in show award at the Coryell Gallery, The Sylvan Award from the Council of the Arts Rodman House, Special Honors for Architectural Design from the American Institute of Drafting and Patrons Prize at Phillips Mill for "The Bubbles," an oil painting of 1930s beach bathers.

In the '60's, Barbara lived and painted in the coastal regions of Puerto Rico, Florida, Maine, France and Sicily, making extended visits to Spain, Sardinia and North Africa. Awarded merit scholarships she studied both figurative and abstract painting at The Art Students League and The National Academy in New York City. At the Cape Cod School in Provincetown, Massachusetts, she studied plein-air landscape painting with Henri Hensche. Independent study at Academie Julian, Paris, France and the San Fernando Academy, Madrid, Spain were supported by the McDowell Fellowship.

Recent solo exhibitions include Soho 20 Gallery Invitational in New York City, The Logan in New Hope and the Genest Gallery in Lambertville. Postel is represented in collections throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Her Delaware River landscapes are published in the Encyclopedia of Living Artists and the 1990 Woman Artists Datebook.