

Artists reveal stirrings of their souls

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"Last One" by Susan Post

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By Joyce Kelly/Daily News staff
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WALTHAM — In a corner of Susan Post's art studio leans a life-size painting of her son reaching down for sand at the beach.

It's the kind of work she used to create: Portraits, landscapes, "representational art."

Today, the paintings on her studio wall are a bit less "accessible" to viewers, she said, but they reflect her evolution as an artist.

She pulled out an abstract, grid-like painting she calls "Worry in Wartime," which is a good representation of her recent art. Beneath the multi-colored horizontal and vertical plaid splashed across the canvas, she painted several small explosions.

Post created it while her son (the earlier subject on the beach) studied in Israel and she could not stop worrying about him in the middle of all the bombing she saw on the news.

On a different wall at her Waltham Mills studio, Post displays another abstract piece she says she felt compelled to create after her imagination ran wild and emotions erupted watching news about a polygamous cult in Eldorado, Texas.

She took eight of her old, plain, dirty kitchen cabinets, and put a patch of color matching the women's dresses at the center of each slab of wood, calling the work "Keeping House."

"It's about conformity and drudgery and work," Post said.

Perhaps not everybody would understand her art, she said, but Post, and more than 70 of her fellow artists at Waltham Mills, are inviting the public for an intimate view of their inner worlds this weekend.

The Waltham Mills Artists Association is holding its 33rd open studios, free of charge, at 144 Moody St. tomorrow, from noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m..

"Every year, it's a choice to open your studio, but more artists opt to do that than not," said Antoinette Winters, an artist at the mill who helped organize the event.

Artists' media include "all the standards" - painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture, she said, and collage, textiles, photography, jewelry, as well as work by "a very interesting and vibrant" film, video, and animation group.

"We love people to come who are just curious about why the building is used as it is, people who come to see art, and people who come to buy art," Winters said.

"We want the community to see what we're doing, and know what we're about," she said.

The artists hail from the communities of Waltham, Newton, Wayland, Weston, Wellesley, Lexington, Cambridge, and beyond, she said.

Some live at the mill, but many, like Winters, merely spend many of their waking hours there, experimenting, exploring, and creating their own unique art, she said.

The open studios are "an opportunity to show one's newest work, and maybe you want to get a little response from the public on your new ideas," said Winters, an artist who teaches fiber arts at Concord Academy.

For more information, log on to www.wmaastudios.org.

Joyce Kelly can be reached at 781-398-8005 or jkelly@cnc.com.