

Marjorie Low



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By JEN CARDINES

About the Artist:

Whether it's knitting, writing, painting, drawing, or collaging, 95 year old Marjorie Low loves to keep her hands busy. The Southington Community Cultural Arts (SoCCA) center held an opening party for the local artist on Oct. 16 to kick off her display running until Nov. 14.

At 95, Low continues to actively paint and draw in her Southington home, never letting her age slow her down.

The artist was born in New York City to a family of artists and began her path to artistry at age 4. She has lived in Southington for 30 years. Over her long career, she has created multiple painting series, including clowns, children, animals, portraits, flowers, and the homeless.

She served as Vice President of Visual Arts on the Southington Arts Council for 25 years, along with the Milford Art League.

Low's work has been in over 40 galleries around New England, and she has donated pieces to different community organizations, the Hospital for Special Care, and charity events. Her work has been on exhibit in the State Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion, and she was the recipient of the 2012 Artist of the Year award by the Meriden Fine Arts Council.

Low recalled her years of friendship with SoCCA executive director Mary DeCroce, and the Gura Building project. "Mary said to me, 'You know Marge, the building is 91 years old and you are 95.'"

She said she didn't know what to expect, but that the outcome was beautiful. "When I was asked to have my artwork on display there, I immediately said yes."

The SoCCA exhibit is titled, "The Sky's the Limit," where many of her later works inspired by the Hubble space satellite book are featured.

"Isn't it amazing?" Low said, flipping through the book. The colors and the depiction of light movement inspired her to create paintings similar to those in the book. The exhibit has dozens of paintings on display that date far back into her career.

"Marjorie is a mentor for me," said DeCroce. "I admire everything that she's done and everything she still does."

Aside from painting, the artist was a writer and photojournalist years ago. She was a freelancer for The Observer and other publications, interviewing people in the arts and writing the stories. She is skilled in many art trades, and has almost a century to prove it.

Statement:



Photo by Dave Zajac, Record-Journal
Article by Farrah-Duffany

Artist Marjorie Low, 95, of Southington, sits at her easel with a recently completed painting titled 'The Great Implosion,' Wednesday, October 12, 2016. A lifetime of work including, paintings, drawings, angel prints and mini sculptures at Southington Community Cultural Arts were on display.

SOUTHINGTON — In Marjorie Low's basement are dozens of pieces of artwork. Some are portraits, others are abstract, and some are landscapes. Her collection is expansive.

All the artwork, done with oil-based paint, was created by Low, who recently turned 95.

"Everything on the wall is mine," said Low.

Low uses the third floor of her home as a studio, filled with tubes of paint and brushes.

On Sunday, she will have nearly 40 pieces of her artwork on display at SoCCA, the Southington Community Cultural Arts building, as part of her exhibit titled "The Sky's the Limit."

The opening party is Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the arts center, 93 Main St. The exhibit runs until Nov. 14.

Low said she's excited to display the collection and her featured painting, "The Great Implosion," inspired by a photo book by Edwin Hubble. A collection of other paintings were inspired by Hubble photos.

"I've been working on this show for three years," Low said Wednesday.

Throughout her life, Low said, she's created 18 series of subject matter from clowns to flowers and still life. Her artwork has been exhibited in more than 40 galleries in Connecticut.

Mary DeCroce, president of the nonprofit Southington Community Cultural Arts, said she's thrilled to have Low's pieces at the gallery.

"She just amazed me because at her age, she just turned 95, her clarity is unbelievable and her work energy is over the top," DeCroce said. "I love her work. They are abstract and impressionism. They're not illustrative, but they give you the feeling and emotion of what she's painting."

Low said her paintings are created from memory. She enjoys painting freely and creatively.

Since she was young, Low has always worked with her hands. When she was 7, her aunt taught her how to crochet, knit, and sew. From there, drawing and the arts became a passion.

She attended Montclair State University in New Jersey and went on to study art in New York at the New School, Traphagen School of Design and the Art Students League.

Low also writes poetry and has published a book, "My Bohemian Life: A Self-Portrait of an Artist Without Boundaries."

"I believe 100 percent that she deserves a one-woman show for a lifetime of work," DeCroce said of Low. "And for people to see her work and for her to share it with as many people as she can."

Not only will Low be sharing her artwork with the community, but she will be sharing another one of her passions on Sunday during the opening party.

"I baked over 100 butter cookies," Low said, laughing.

Works

- University of Connecticut Health



• Asset Number: 1074

