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Northern Virginia Art Beat



Written by Kevin Mellema

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Focus Exhibitions, at the Greater Reston Arts Center (12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston). This exhibit runs through Feb. 14. The gallery hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday. For further information, call 703-471-9242, or visit www.restonarts.org.

Speaking of transformation and ladders, the Focus Exhibition features three artists: Erin Antognoli, Marcia Wolfson Ray and Joy

Every. Each one works with multimedia collage, encaustic and traditional painting techniques, combining and varying the mix there of as the piece dictates. At times abstract, representational or floating between the two in a semi-surrealistic view of the world.

Sculptress Marcia Wolfson Ray works with natural found materials. Her matrices of twigs and reeds typically establish a binding scaffold like superstructure within and around which she works collections of hay, bark, straw, and the like. Some pieces seem to find exuberant freedom in outwardly thrusting sprays. Yet other pieces offer a sense of capture in tightly bound bundles of material rhythmically placed within their scaffolding. The works take different slants on the contrasting themes of capture and escape. The best of which seem to address the farthest points on that spectrum.

Erin Antognoli has a collection of multi-exposure black and white photos. Using a low quality plastic Holga camera loaded with 2¼" film, Antognoli crafts in-camera multiple exposures. The resulting images come out surprisingly well composed considering the monumental fudge factor in this guesswork, heavy working method. The photos have an expanded sense of time and place as all multiple exposure works do. It's tough to pick best out of this high quality lot, but the ladder photo seems especially noteworthy as it takes a near cubist stab at simultaneously showing us both sides of a ladder leaning against a house.