

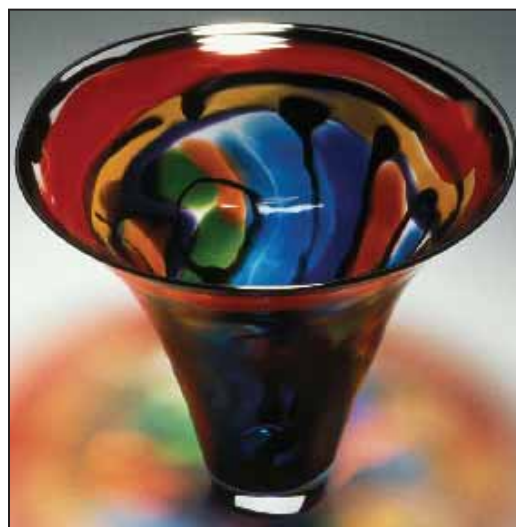
AROUND TOWN

Frozen By Fire 2 — Clay painting sculptures and pottery by Susan Cohen on view through Oct. 29 at Studio Gallery, 2108 R St. NW. An artist's reception is at 3 p.m. Sunday. 202-232-8734; www.studiogallerydc.com

On The Road Again — Chip Cecil's dynamic figurative and automotive oil paintings are on display this weekend in the Arcade Gallery at Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. A reception will be at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Nadia Wheeler, Student Exhibition — Drawings, paintings and prints are on display through Oct. 28 at Washington Studio School, 4505 Stanford St., Chevy Chase. A reception will be 7 p.m. Friday. 301-718-7210; www.washingtonstudioschool.org

Glass blower Lisa Aronzon's stained glass vase.



ARTS

Sugarloaf turns 30

Craft festival celebrates birthday with more fine arts, contemporary crafts

By Emily Campbell
Examiner Staff Writer

The Sugarloaf Craft Festival is an art-lovers dream.

With more than 350 artisans showing off their wares this weekend, the festival is almost like several different art galleries jam-packed into one convenient place.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the festival. The event, which was founded by Gaithersburg-based Sugarloaf Mountain Works, highlights some of the best local, regional and national fine arts and crafts, including works of pottery, jewelry, photography, metal, wood, textiles, glass, leather and more.

Linda Biggs, a Towson-based artist who specializes in fantasy creatures, began her career by sending in samples of her work to Sugarloaf. Her watercolor fairies are among the most popular paintings.

"A lot of people like [my art] because it's bright and colorful and happy," Biggs said. "The fairies are happy images. They leave you with a good feeling."

Baltimore jewelry designer Mary DeMarco says she is inspired by the beauty of nature.

"I stick with nature because that's what I'm known for — it's my brand," she said in a statement. "I mostly sell to people who appreciate the art behind it."

Creating more than 120 new pieces annually, DeMarco's jewelry is made of pewter, brass and semi-precious stones.

The festival will also feature children's activities and musical entertainment. The usual festival fare will be provided, along with some specialty foods like homemade jams, candies and fudge.

Demonstrations on papermaking, woodturning and other craft techniques give artisans a chance to show their skills to visitors.

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MUSEUMS » NEW EXHIBIT

Scar stories

Imagery at new exhibition shows physical, mental repercussions of surgery

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

Tinkling glasses, glitz, gossip — it was a typical L.A. soiree until Joy rolled into the room.

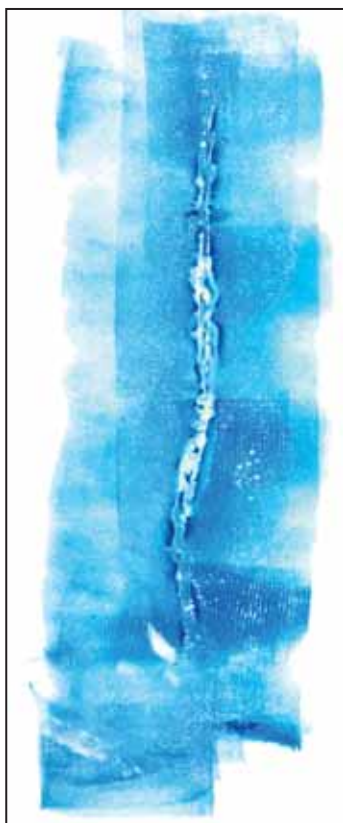
Heads turned, among them Ted Meyer's. Then he spotted it — the life-mark that would change the the artist's life-work.

Joy's low-backed gown revealed a serpentine gash of white. "I had to capture the moment, of someone so accepting of a scar," recalled Meyer. He set up a photo shoot. The wheelchair back was removed for a clear view of the scar. It's juxtaposed with Joy's face, a flash of loveliness and knowing, caught as she turns her shoulders toward the camera.

What caused the scar? A camp accident in her early 20s left Joy paralyzed from the waist down. Surgery didn't restore her mobility, but she didn't let misfortune become a roadblock. Now in her 30s, she has performed in a dance company and has acted in Hollywood roles, such as the savvy-striking computer expert seated at the controls.

The encounter inspired Meyer to artfully depict the scars of others. He expected reluctance to expose and express feelings about disfigurements. On the contrary, aspiring subjects sought Meyer out, lifting shirts and pulling down pants to reveal the distinguishing characteristics that they acquired on the road of life.

He even got an offer at the opening of his new exhibition *Scarred for Life* at the National Museum of Health and Medicine.



Meyer's scar-art retrospective includes 35 mono-prints taken directly from the his model's skin. Scar details are accentuated with gouache — opaque watercolor — and colored pencil. The skin-centric portraits are accompanied by photos of the subjects and wall text describing the events that scarred their skin and lives.

The photos reveal personality as well as attitude — acceptance, resignation, resentment, wonder — about the scars these folks bare and bear. Ridges and rivulets of flesh become more than reminders of an accident, operation or disability — they make one more unique. Each scar encases a story.

Meyer knows this personally.



Scars can tell stories of who a person is, as depicted in *Scarred for Life* at the National Museum of Health and Medicine. Left: A gouache print of Joy's back scar. Above: Ted Meyer's self-portrait before having multiple hip surgeries.

SCARRED FOR LIFE

On view through March 2007

» **Venue:** National Museum of Health and Medicine, 6900 Georgia Ave. and Elder St. NW
 » **Tix:** Free, bring photo I.D.
 » **Info:** 202-782-2200; nmhm.washingtondc.museum

His earlier art focused on turmoil provoked by lifelong Gaucher disease, a hereditary condition causing bone mineral loss and chronic pain. Its degenerative effects required two hip replacement operations for Meyer. The exhibit includes a series of large pre-surgery abstract crouching self-portrayals whose primary colors counterbalance anxieties.

The graphics of his Joy-inspired scar series proved therapeutic — for the models, viewers and artist. Subjects chose their own colors. In one print, bright orange undulating scars symbolize the bad luck of a tornado thrusting one's car into a bus — and the good luck of said bus carrying medical personnel.

The artist points to a scar commemorating a serendipitous, life-saving event. It belongs to one of his design students, who had volunteered to be test subject for calibration of new MRI equipment. "They did his knee, then his torso." The unexpected discovery: early-stage pancreatic cancer. Treated in time, his student survived the all-too-often fatal disease.

Scars are as unique as the people who bear them, and like people, change over time. The mono-prints span slender scars depicted right after an operation to well-aged, spread-out epidermal stigmata. Some prints look like modern art; others recall ancient cave etchings.

Animal scars are represented through prints of Stella, Meyer's adopted cat. Post-declawing infection by her past owner led to the amputation of the formerly forlorn feline's back paws. No nail trim, the declawing removes the lower toe joints, often leading to chronic discomfort, loss of balance and behavioral problems. The backstory appears at StellaHasNoFeet.com.



SUGARLOAF CRAFT FESTIVAL

» **Venue:** Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium
 » **Houes:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday
 » **Tickets:** \$7
 » **Info:** www.sugarloafcrafts.com