

*"With a dumpster vocabulary, he ekes out visual poetry"*

## **Rocky Bridges: Ascension June 6-July 25**

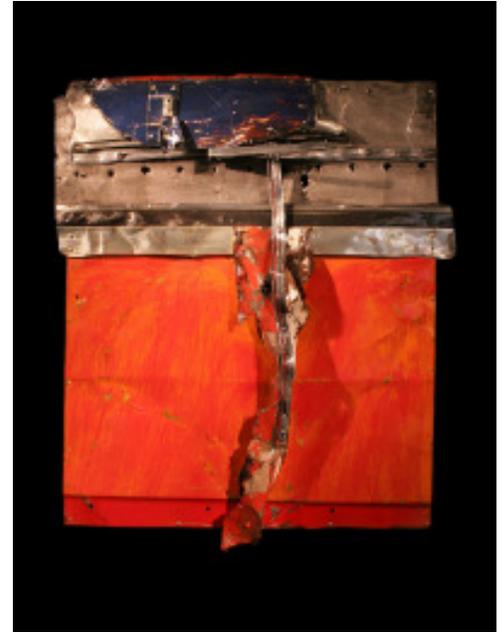
It's February 2008 and the Tampa Museum of Art is ready to demolish its current structure in preparation for a new home. What do you do, if you're Rocky Bridges?

Where others see the fragments and sherds of architecture past its prime, you see the raw materials of a new work of art, incorporating the past as a comment on the present and, most likely, the future. You reclaim, you salvage, you recycle. And the result is more than a souvenir. It's a contribution to the ongoing cultural conversation. And a visually provocative piece of art in its own right.

For the past two decades, the Florida-based artist has been winning Best of Show awards in major exhibitions with his found-object creations. He has studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and Cooper Union in New York, has had a solo exhibition at the Polk Museum of Art, and has shown at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D. C.

Bridges has won the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship in the Visual Arts and a Residency Fellowship from The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. He was the recipient of the Japan Fulbright Memorial Scholar Award in 2007. He teaches at the Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Lakeland, Florida..

*Rocky Bridges: Ascension* opens with a reception for the artist on Saturday, June 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The show will run through July 25.



Rocky Bridges, *Unimaginable Glory*

*July 31 - September 12*

## **James Mellick: Carving, Assemblage and Painting**



James Mellick, *Woody*, 2007

James Mellick has been a practicing artist for the whole of his adult life— also a professor of art, a curator of art exhibits, a writer on things artistic, and a contributor of his work to corporate, academic and public and private collections. In short, Mellick is an art polymath. “Nihil alienum”, as Terence says.

He is also a multiple award-winner on the local, national, and international art scenes. Currently operating from his studio outside Marysville, *Heartwood Studios and Farm, Art Gallery, Art School, Art Studio, Writing and Music Site* (even the name of his home base is multi-faceted), Mellick creates sculpture and wall-pieces that wittily combine shrewd observation with conceptual nuance. The result is such pieces as *Woody 2007* (left) or his painted wood fantasy birds.

Mellick has said that the “first level” of his work “is the craftsmanship, the beauty of the wood surface,” but thereafter, there’s also “a message.” Speaking of his canine sculptures, he writes, “My intent in sculpture has always been to reach a unity of shape and content, so that the secondary forms and shapes within the body of the dog not only serve as symbols of the meaning, but they are also important design elements in the composition.”

A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, August 7, 6:30-8:30 pm. *James Mellick: A Retrospective of Carving, Assemblage and Painting* runs through September 12. For more information, please see our website, [www.artspacelima.com](http://www.artspacelima.com), or Mellick’s website, [www.jamesmellick.com](http://www.jamesmellick.com).

From the Guest Book: "Inspired." "Inspiring." "Five Thumbs Up!!!"

## 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Show Merits Bravos

What can you say about ArtSpace/Lima's *Spring Show* that hasn't already been said. It has, after all, been a staple of the organization's and the community's art awareness for over half a century.

And the 2009 edition more than lived up to that well-established pedigree.

Fifty-four artists from as far away as Toledo, Columbus, and Dayton, and from as near as Elida, Pandora, and Cridersville, sought entry into the show. Forty-five were chosen, many with multiple entries.

Eight awards were distributed at the Opening Reception on Friday, April 17. Best of Show went to Allen Miller of Wapakoneta for his imposing chalk and charcoal piece, *David and Goliath* (top right). The First Award was presented to Madison Hartley of Bowling Green for *Alice Hindman 3* (oil on canvas; below center), while Harry Melroy of Sycamore garnered the Second Award for *A Closer Look* (acrylic)

Mike Huffman of Lima won the Award for Painting with his *Bhutto as Martyr* (oil on canvas; center right) and the Martha Farmer Award for Sculpture was won by Steve Smith (Ney) for *Zygote Stele* (below right).

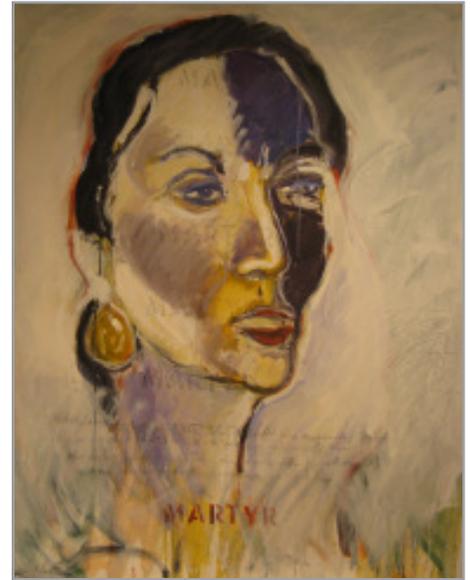
Other awards went to Sumiko Takada for Ceramics and Douglas Fiely (Third Award) for his woodcut print, *Dying Poplar*. Alice Schneider took the ArtSpace/Lima Photography Club Award for best photograph (bottom left)..

A ninth piece will be honored with the People's Choice Award, selected by gallery attendees' votes during the run of the exhibit.

Jurors Judith Greavu and Bruce Chesser summed up their work: "This exhibit offers proof of a diverse visual art community within the 100 mile radius of Lima, Ohio. Representational, abstract and non objective visual statements were included to adequately represent the range of work submitted."



Allen Miller  
*David and Goliath*  
Best of Show



Mike Huffman  
*Bhutto as Martyr*  
Award for Painting



Alice Schneider  
*Worn Out*  
Photography Club Award

*Spring Show 2009* runs through May 30.



Madison Hartley  
*Alice Hindman 3*  
First Award



Steve Smith  
*Zygote Stele*  
Martha Farmer Award for Sculpture



**RALLY IN THE SQUARE  
2009 SCHEDULE**  
[www.rallyinthesquare.com](http://www.rallyinthesquare.com)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>BAND</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
May 15	The Hipnotix with James Goare	TBA
May 22	Double Deed	Acheson Realty
May 29	The Game	TBA
June 5	The Indoorfins	Superior Federal Credit Union
June 12	Aftermath!	Lima Building Trades
June 19	TBA	Allen County Democratic Party
June 26	The Jim Cummings Band	Dominion
July 3	fo/mo/deep	TBA
July 10	New Wave Nation	Potash Corporation
July 17	The Hipsters	Plumbers and Pipefitters Union
July 24	TBA	Citizens National Bank
July 31	The Earthquakers	Fort Amanda Specialties
August 14	Midnight Special	Downtown Lima, Inc.
August 21	Exploit!	Lima Pathology Labs
August 28	We-B50	TBA
Sept 4	Streetwise	TBA
Sept 11	TBA	TBA



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### Last Words from the Operations Manager

## ArtSpace 24/7, 365, At Home and Abroad

At ArtSpace, neither the clock nor the calendar ever stops. In that regard, we're no different from the rest of the world, I suppose. Still, there is a peculiar joy about the ArtSpace venture which does make it different.



As I write this, we have just opened the Rally season with an especially successful first night. Someone suggested that we may be the beneficiaries of the bad economic times, insofar as people are staying closer to home and therefore are able to come to the Rally. Maybe. But then, too, maybe the Rally is just a really good time. Doesn't have to be either/or.

But, speaking of the Rallies, Kay VanMeter is once again our Rally Manager, bringing her formidable organizational skills to the events. This year, with a difference: Kay has just become ArtSpace's Associate Manager, a position which gives her many duties beyond the rallies. We're delighted that she can bring those legendary skills to bear on more aspects of the organization.

Also this summer, we're mounting three very special exhibits, beginning with *Rocky Bridges: Ascension* in June, continuing with the remarkable works of James Mellick starting at the end of July (see elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for more), and spanning the summer with a show in our Mezzanine Gallery at St. Rita's featuring the ceramics of Bruce Chesser and the photographs of Phil Hugo. Bridges is based in Florida, Mellick in Milford Center (near Marysville), and Chesser and Hugo, of course, more locally. Together, the three shows are evidence that ArtSpace has a commitment both to area artists and to bringing in major artists our local population wouldn't otherwise have the chance to see.

Which brings me to this: ArtSpace is always (24/7) in the market for ideas about exhibitions. If you are an artist looking for a venue, please let us know. We have three galleries for the purpose and we have a strong and active Exhibition Committee, who will be happy to consider your proposal. The website ([www.artspacelima.com](http://www.artspacelima.com)) has more specifics on how to go about your proposal and what the Committee would need to see up front. Alternately, if you have an idea for an exhibit you think ArtSpace should pursue, let us know.

In August, look for ArtSpace at Square Fair. If all goes according to advance planning and hope, we'll be bringing the fine arts to the Fair, to complement the crafts already on display. We may also do a repeat of our "From the ArtSpace Attic" sale of a couple of years ago. Stay tuned for details.

Finally, there's "ArtSpace in Oaxaca," our planned 8-day tour of the food and folk-art capital of Mexico, coming up next February. Nestled in southern Mexico, Oaxaca is a gourmand's and art-lover's paradise, friendly, rich in culture (Hispanic, Zapotec, and contemporary Mexican), and still unspoiled, with native craftspersons and world-class cuisine. Details on the website.

As I say, 24/7, 365.

Best,  
Bill Sullivan

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