Diner's Club Show

March 6 – April 16, 2021

About the Exhibition

The Diner's Club Show features the work of 11 artists, who collectively call themselves The Diner's Club. For years, the group has met weekly at a diner or restaurant in Rochester, NY to talk shop, exchange information on shows, bring articles to swap, trade ideas and share frustrations.

Exhibition Dates: March 6 – April 16, 2021

Artists:

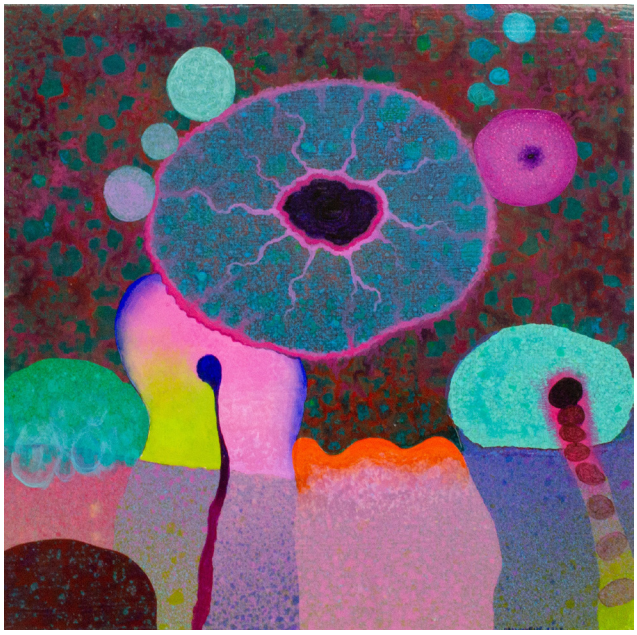
Christina Bang
Paul Brandwein
Edward Buscemi
Tarrant Clements
Bob Conge
Kurt Feuerherm
Bill Hand
William Keyser
Susan Mandl
Peter Monacelli
George Wegman

Christina Bang

"Since early childhood and throughout my life I have had an interest and love of objects. religious art, devotional relics and artifacts, Ex Voto, Reetablo, altars, Outlier works, Primitive art, archeological fragments, old photographs, iconography, Surrealism, Minimalism, Abstract Expressionism."

Christina Bang started making things as a teenager.
She taught art K through University as an adult.

Paul Brandwein



"As I experiment with painting and sculptural materials, I try to distill myriad natural forms, textures and colors into a moving, visual poetry. I work slowly and deliberately to create objects that, I hope, will invite viewers to keep looking and finding new things to see and connect with."

Encouraged from childhood to draw and explore nature, he started a craft business after college, and then moved to Rochester, NY where he taught at SUNY Brockport and the Rochester City School District. Over the course of his career his work has been exhibited and collected across the country.

Ed Buscemi

"I am deeply interested in the relationship between spontaneous activity and creative thought. As much as possible, I try to approach my work in an improvisational manner and create an event in time. To a great extent, what I do is rooted in a playful exploration of whatever materials I'm using."

Ed lives in the Rochester, New York area and has been teaching college art and design since 2001. He is presently an adjunct faculty member in the Visual Arts Department at Monroe Community College. Prior to teaching Ed worked in the graphic design and marketing fields for almost twenty years.

Tarrant Clements

"I start with an idea, usually something very simple, like how two shapesmight go together or how a line might touch a shape. And then I let thepiece grow from there. I try many things that don't work, reject them, try something else, react and so on, each step suggesting the next step. Eventually it works itself into a finished piece.

This 'giving over' to the piece can be daunting. It makes you struggle. It doesn't allow you the comfort of the known. But I see it as exciting-knowing that my only limitations are what I give myself permission to do."

Received an MFA from the School of American Craftsman at Rochester Institute of Technology in Ceramic Sculpture in 1968. Tarrant first started making things as a small child and has been working intensively in many mediums for all these 70 years, exhibiting locally and nationally with work included in many collections.

Bob Conge

"My work is my only voice in this wilderness of noise."

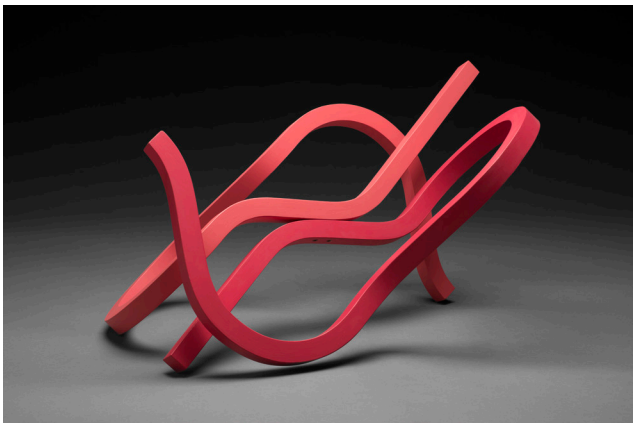
From childhood on Bob never stopped drawing things on the wall, like pea green sheep grazing in a fire red field under a violet sky with pink and yellow clouds.

Kurt Feuerherm

"Kurt Feuerherm was an artist focused on the abstraction of nature-related subjects. His landscape paintings are influenced by his lifelong love and understanding of nature and his exposure to varied geographic areas of the world. His U.S. paintings reflect his travels in the states of Washington, Alaska, California, Arizona, Utah, Maine, New York and Cape Cod Massachusetts. Since his early college days, Kurt traveled extensively in Mexico and later in the Caribbean islands. During the 1990s, Kurt lived and taught in Florence, Italy and traveled extensively throughout Tuscany. Prior to that, he traveled throughout Europe developing bodies of work reflecting the images and nuances of different topographies and cultures."

Kurt is in numerous collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Syracuse Everson Gallery, Henry Gallery, University of Washington and Rochester Memorial Art Gallery. Kurt's educational background includes Post-Graduate Fellowships at Yale University studying with Josef Albers, Stuart Davis, Louis Kahn and Naum Gabo, an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Arts and a B.F.A. from the University of Buffalo. Kurt resided in Rochester, New York.

William Keyser



"I make abstract paintings and sculpture because I'm obsessed with unfamiliar shapes, patterns and forms that take me to places I've never been. My art often begins with a remnant; from a recycling center, a walk in the park, the floor of my studio, or the last piece of art I did. I welcome debris, detritus, the accidental, the surprise, the abandoned and chance. These become the first mark on the blank canvas of my imagination. I'm always looking for that eureka moment!

Current work suggests future work. Earlier pieces often become remnants to foster the next generation. Ideas beget ideas. I work to chase after these ideas in the continuum that is my life."

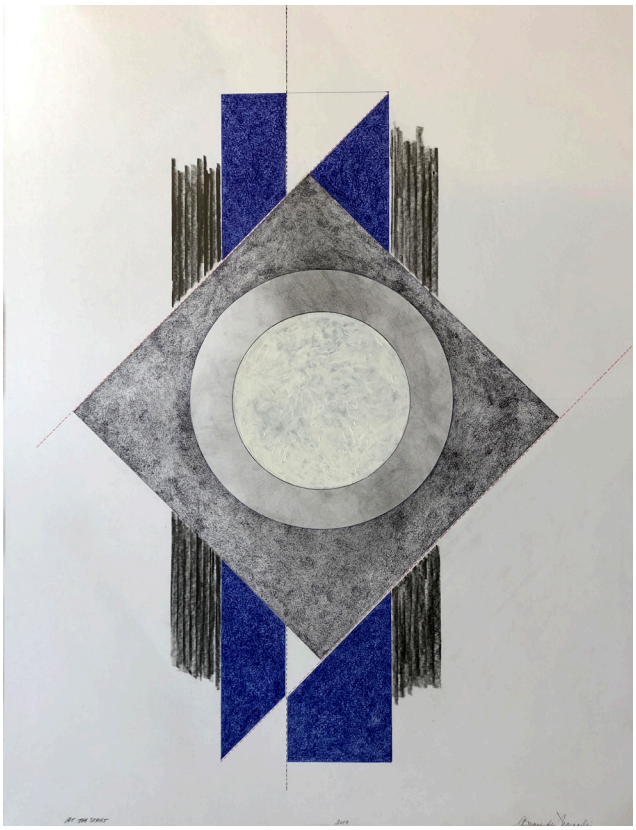
William Keyser taught Furniture Design at the School for American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology for thirty-five years while also creating commissioned furniture for residential, commercial, ecclesiastical and public applications. Keyser stopped teaching after he awoke from a dream with a feeling that there was something very important he needed to do next in his career, although he didn't know what. Soon after this revelation he began a gradual transition from furniture to sculpture and fine art, discovering a love of painting along the way. This exhibition features his work since 2015, representing the most recent intersection of experience and passion that defines Keyser.

Susan Mandl

"Silver Lining: Last summer I was invited to create an art class for 3 young kids. We started last July in person but have had to go remote. These kids are growing 'an aesthetic eye'. Their dads are super involved and very helpful. We're happy with how things are progressing."

Susan taught elementary school art for 32 years. Her favorite part was the freshness and uninhibited aspect of children's art. She's inspired to try to achieve this quality in her own work.

Peter Monacelli



" Art when really understood is true province of every human being. Art is simply a question of doing things, anything, well. It is not an outside, extra thing." (Robert Henri — "The Art Spirit")

"The Elves next unwrapped and gave to each of the company the clothes they had brought. For each they had provided a hood and a cloak... it was hard to say what color they were; gray with the hue of twilight under the trees they seemed to be; and yet if they were moved or set in another light, they were green as shadowed leaves, or brown as fallow fields by night, dusk silver as water under the stars...' are these magic cloaks' asked Pippen, ... ' I do not know what you mean by that' , answered the Elves... leaf and branch, water and stone; they have the hue and beauty of all these things under the twilight of Loren that we love; for we put the thought of all that we love into all that we make." (J.R.R. Tolkien — The Lord of the Rings Part 1, pg. 479)

In my artistic life I have attempted to put the thought of all that I love in all the things that I have made. To me, Tolkien's definition of real magic is the necessary ingredient for anyone who wishes to do anything well; anyone called an artist.

Peter Monacelli holds degrees from Monroe Community College and Empire State College. He is a retired member of the art department at MCC, where he was elected to the Alumni Hall of Fame. He has also served as art director of the Little Theatre Café Gallery and taught high school art in the Rochester City School District. Monacelli's exhibitions include the Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition; For Drawing's Sake: Makers And Mentors at Rochester Contemporary; and a solo show, Social Art Commentary, which traveled to 10 colleges in New York state.

George Wegman

"COVID-19 arrived with a vengeance in the spring of 2020. Life changed for all of us and so did my art. Currently the works that I make are based on the photos that I take in my neighborhood on my daily walks. My art has always been about exploring new images. I follow my muse wherever it takes me."

George Wegman was born in Rochester, NY, second in a family of eleven children. For the last 51 years he has been a practicing artist. Rochester has been his home throughout almost all of his life; his work, family, art community, and a rich cultural life keep him here. He is the father to two creative sons, and a grandfather also. George worked as a carpenter and craftsman for forty years.

He retired from St. John's Home in 2011 after serving the elder community there for 26 years. He continues to be present at St. John's as a volunteer with the senior studio art group. George believes that talent alone does not make an artist, an artist. There is no substitute for diligent and persistent work if one is to evolve and develop. Art, being the 'signature of man', enriches life and has the potential to heal this broken and divided world. These are lessons that he learned as a young artist while serving as the graduate assistant to Fred Meyer in the MFA program at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Throughout his career his many mentors including, Peter Monacelli, Jacque and Tarrant Clements, Lawrence Williams, Chuck Haas, Kurt Feuerherm, Bob Conge, and Joe Hendrick have served him as teachers, supportive friends, and prolific artists. An artist never stops learning from others.