

Creative energy of local artists keeps galleries humming

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Despite the weak economy and decreasing financial support, local art venues are brimming with activity, from historical surveys and themed group exhibitions to solo shows by emerging artists. Here's a look at some of what's going on.

The Cleveland Artists Foundation has a tradition of presenting regional art from various angles. "Beyond Reality: Ohio Artists After Surrealism" is the institution's latest offering. Curated by local art historian Elizabeth McClelland, it features works by 18 Northeast Ohio artists.

Based on the ideas of the Surrealists of the 1920s, the show tries to demonstrate the ongoing influence of that movement and expose related threads of thought running through the decades to the work of contemporary artists. The show is on view at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, through Nov. 29. Call 216-227-9507 or go to www.clevelandartists.org.

The New Center for Art & Technology hasn't had an easy time establishing itself as a permanent institution in Cleveland. Despite its lack of exhibition space, it's still functioning as an organization, working to promote digital art.

The center and the Cleveland State University Art Gallery are collaboratively sponsoring the sixth annual MacWorld Expo Digital Art Gallery, a traveling show of digital art that opened in New York in July and will make its way to San Francisco by January. Included are digital illustrations by students, hobbyists and professionals. The show is on view in the Third Floor Gallery of CSU's University Center, 2121 Euclid Ave., through Dec. 5. Call the New Center for Art & Tech-



BOCKRATH GALLERY

Cleveland artist Lissa Bockrath's new clutch of work employs her familiar technique of painting with oils over diffused color photographs. Her show "Streetscapes" is on view through Dec. 20 at Bockrath Gallery in Cleveland's Little Italy neighborhood.

GALLERY SPOTLIGHT

Opening

■ The Cleveland Artists Foundation and the Poets' and Writers' League of Greater Cleveland are sponsoring "The Poetic Response: Beyond Rhyme," an event described as "an absurd evening of music and poetry based on art of the past and present," from 7:30 to 9 p.m. today at the CAF Gallery in the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. The event is free and requires no tickets or reservations. Call 216-227-9507.

■ The "Winter Glass Invitational" opens with a reception from 5 to 9 tonight at Art-

Metro Gallery, in the Artcade, 530 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. The show features the work of Brian Bencheck, Zak Gorell and Cis Ricchiuto and is up through Jan. 5. Call 216-696-1942.

Ongoing

■ "Tara Donovan: Drawings" is on view at Shaheen Modern and Contemporary Art, 740 W. Superior Ave., Cleveland, featuring works on paper by the internationally recognized artist. The show, up through Nov. 29, is running concurrently with "Jim Dine: Paintings, Sculpture and Works on Paper." Call 216-830-8888.

Ave., the gallery is holding the solo show "Dott Schneider: Reflections and Complaints of the Lover When Alone."

On view through Nov. 22, the

symbolic meaning. Call 216-696-1942.

Lissa Bockrath has become a mainstay in the art scene by continuing to produce bodies of work and by running a success-

Using such materials as lipstick, nail polish and motor oil, (artist Dott) Schneider makes paintings charged with symbolic meaning.

Hill Road, through Dec. 20. Featured are new variations on Bockrath's technique of painting with oils over diffused color photographs. Call 216-721-5990 or go to www.bockrathgallery.com.

With its innovative programming, the B.K. Smith Gallery at Lake Erie College is one of the Cleveland area's best venues for contemporary art. Run by Free Times art critic Lyz Bly, the gallery has two shows. "Shut Up: Censorship, Art and Literature" features nearly 20 artists who were asked to create work related to censored literature. Among

The gallery also has a solo show of works by Akron painter Laura Vinnedge titled "Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger." Both shows are on view through Dec. 5. The gallery is at 391 W. Washington St., Painesville. Call 440-375-7461.

Tranberg is a Cleveland artist and writer. Art Matters is a column that runs weekly in Friday! covering the area art scene. To be considered for publication, items about shows or openings must be received three weeks in advance. Mail to Plain Dealer Art Critic, 1001 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114.