

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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Pastel Landscapes in Visitors Center Gallery

The Downing Park Planning Committee is pleased to present an exhibit featuring the recent pastel paintings of artist Paula Pearl in the Visitors Center Gallery. Pearl, a multi-media artist now living in New Jersey, grew up in Newburgh and is a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy where she studied photography.

After graduating from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising Design/Photography, Pearl worked for several photographers in New York City before changing her career to book editing. However, photography remained her creative medium of choice until after her children were born. As an at home mom, she became

interested in quilting and fiber arts as a perfect at home outlet for her creativity. She explored many techniques including discharge dyeing, painting on fabric, embellishing with silk ribbons, beads, and many different fabrics. Her one of a kind art quilts have been exhibited widely in New Jersey as well as locally in the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, Newburgh, and the Howland Cultural Center, Beacon.



Pearl says of her work, “I never really thought about painting until a friend of mine told me my quilt looked like a painting. I took my first watercolor painting class about 5 years ago at the duCret School of Art with Bill Senior. I enjoyed working in watercolor, but wanted a little more control. Then I discovered pastel, and it has become my current medium of choice. I’ve studied with Rhoda Yanow, Julie Friedman, and Dannielle Mick. My background in photography has had a strong influence on whatever medium I use. I take my camera with me everywhere and

then work in my studio primarily from these photographic references.” Her landscapes glow with a golden light, and there is a richness and purity of color even in areas of shadow.



Pearl is a member of Audubon Artists, Inc., the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Association, the Millburn Short Hills Art Center, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, the Pastel Society of New Jersey, Inc., Scotch Plains Fanwood Arts Association and Somerset Art Association. She has received many awards for her work in fiber arts, watercolor, and pastel. She works out of her home studio in Fanwood, NJ.

This exhibit will be on view from March 11-31 at the Visitors Center Gallery, located in the Shelter House in Downing Park, at Carpenter Avenue and Third Street in Newburgh. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For information call (845) 565-5559.