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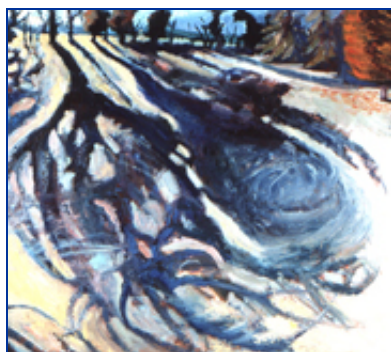
First UNH Fine Arts Graduate Students Hold Exhibition

Events mark milestone for new master's program

By [Lori Gula](#)
UNH News Bureau

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The first four graduate students to receive a master of fine arts degree in painting at the University of New Hampshire are presenting their thesis work in two inaugural exhibitions at The Art Gallery, signifying the strong start of the new graduate program.



Fall Sundown,
2001
by **Kim Massaro**
oil on canvas
45" x 45"

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"Our new graduate program in painting is the first of its kind in New Hampshire, and so we are very excited about the inaugural MFA Thesis Exhibitions. Our students -- Linda Anason, Anne Dubois, Patricia Mahoney and Kimberly Massaro -- deserve great credit for making the studios here a place where an atmosphere of serious effort and critical engagement has prevailed and will soon become a tradition," says Craig Hood, associate professor of art and master's program co-coordinator.

2002 MFA Thesis Exhibitions

The first MFA Thesis Exhibition, April 20 to May 5, will feature the works of Linda Anason and Kimberly

Massaro. Anason, of Newfields, works in oil and mixed media. Her expansive canvases pulse with energy, the surfaces rough and intricate. She combines paint in dark hues and vivid crimson with pieces of wire, sand and bullets to create surfaces with intricate texture and depth. The end result is a complicated canvas that tempts the viewer to touch its rich surface.

In contrast is the work of artist Kimberly Massaro, originally of Philadelphia, who now lives in Durham. Massaro's oil paintings depict the landscape. "The paintings are made through a culmination of responses to nature, initially through beginning the painting on sight as an objective witness of nature, then by recalling through my memory the sensation of the place, and finally through invention. In each painting, there is a search for the right amount of each of these approaches. By working this way, I can avoid formulaic solutions and I am always challenged by the endless amount of variables that nature has to offer," Massaro says.

A preview reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, April 19.

The second MFA show, May 11 to May 25, will feature the works of Anne Dubois and Patricia Mahoney. Originally from Kansas City, Mo., Dubois lives in Eliot, Maine. Her oil paintings are colorful studies of still lifes. Explaining her thesis, Dubois says, "After several years of painting in a nonrepresentational way, I am drawn again to the forms and subject matter of real spaces. I like to build a tactile surface with small strokes and areas of color. From a distance the still life may appear as a coherent arrangement, and from close up the forms may dissolve into texture and pattern. I like to feel that the details of life are not really 'still' but subject to the fluid restructuring that shapes our perception and memory."

Similarly, Mahoney, of Dover, paints the world around her, concentrating on the minute details instead of the broad picture. "Whenever I am out in the woods, it is invariably the least attention-getting aspects that end up catching my eye. I've never been interested in the whole spectacle, the panoramic view, but instead focus on the odd angle of a branch or tree, or the way a shaft of light picks out the texture of bark or leaf. These ordinary natural occurrences present both challenge and pleasure

in painting them as objects worthy of appreciation, just because they exist," she says.

A preview reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 10.

ArtBreak Series

The following programs are part of the ArtBreak Series, which runs Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m. in The Art Gallery, unless otherwise noted:

- April 24: Gallery Talk with MFA candidates Linda Anason and Kimberly Massaro.
- May 1: Gallery Talk with exhibiting BFA seniors Nathan Crighton, Kim Ferreira, John Gayle, Sheila Gerrior, Matt Holbrook, Alexandra Mathis and Deborah Russell.
- May 15: Gallery Talk with MFA candidates Anne Dubois and Patricia Mahoney.

The Art Gallery is in the Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 College Road. Admission is free. School tours and other groups are welcome with advance reservation. Call 862-3713 to schedule a tour. Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. The gallery is closed Fridays, university holidays, and during exhibition changes, including May 6-10. The Art Gallery will be open from 1-3 p.m. Commencement Day, Saturday, May 25.

Editors, News Directors: Color slides are available by contacting Amanda Tappan, education and publicity coordinator for The Art Gallery, at 603-862-3713.

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