

BY: DOUG PENDERGRASS

It all begins, and ends, at the newly established Bottega Art & Wine Gallery, located at 208 Front Street, March 24th, from 7-9pm. The two-year journey of seventeen artists will wrap up there with an opening reception celebrating their efforts.

The NBI Catalogue

Bold paintings and ceramics created by artist Gayle Tustin seem integral to holding up the walls surrounding her studio. It's apparent a strong passion went into her work. No stranger to accomplishment on her own, on this day she spoke fondly about her past and future experiences with fellow artists of the No Boundaries International Art Colony. A participating representative, Tustin offers the most recent collaborative effort for our perusal: a green book.

In her art studio, she begins thumbing through the pages, which reveals a variety of artists' creations—seventeen to be exact. They all attended the 2004 No Boundaries International Art Colony at Bald Head Island. The expression of that experience is unveiled in this book, now available at Bottega Art and Wine.

The front cover of the light green No Boundaries catalogue has a circular cut out on it: a porthole allowing a glimpse of a colorful illustration on the first page. The onlooker's point of view is high in the stratosphere, looking down on Earth. Through this window is Bald Head Island, the place where the artists painted and drew away whatever was in them.

Out of the northeast of the circle, a pastel red peninsula juts into a purple ocean. The sun must be rising. Only dawn and twilight produce colors such as these. And the orange glowing ball edging into the scene from the southeast part of the cut out is another clue it's morning.

Wrong. Open the cover, take away the port-hole, the boundaries of a limited view, and the red peninsula is actually a snake's head, drawn and painted in the sand of a beach at low tide.

No Boundaries at Bottega:

New downtown art gallery shows Art Colony pieces

The snake's coiled body, previously unseen, rests on green sand. And the orange ball is really a sand dollar atypically hued. (Actual photo by Arrow Ross.)

There it is. No Boundaries' primary theme: Take away borders and you see the truth of the whole thing.

The Artists

Most of the NBI catalogue helps connect the spectator to the artists and their art. Inside are pictures of their work, photos of the actual artists, brief bios, and how to get in touch with the artists themselves.

Stop on Pamela Toll's page, one of the co-founders of NBI, and you see her painting entitled, "Waiting." Here, it seems a young yellow haired woman is seated, resting her eyes late at night. Dark and shaded blue dominate the background, while red, yellow and green are used for contrast. The composition is asym-

metrical, yet strangely balanced. It is effectively both flowing and quiet.

content is up for subjective interpretation in expressionistic work. Flip through to Aleks Bartosik's page. There is an oil on canvas entitled, "Wolf Woman #1." The dominant color here is white. Against that white, moving across the frame from left to right, is a wild woman running on her hands and feet; her right 'front paw' in the air, in mid-stride. Bartosik will soon have two such paintings on exhibition here in Wilmington.

The two paintings depict 'women-beast' creatures/protagonists. The women embody a play between anthropomorphic and zomorphic transformations. They are transforming, multiplying, fragmenting, disappearing and reappearing," shares Bartosik.

About his contribution, entitled "Hidden #1"—in which we are looking at the back of a nude woman under a fallen, leafless branch, her head hidden in shade—artist Tim Jones said, "That one is actually black oil paint on primed paper. After being on the island for a bit, I never realized how beautifully rugged our local beachscapes are. (Especially those that haven't been over developed.) The craggy, low-lying trees reminded me of bones-bleached out and snowy. I tried placing figures in this kind of primal world, and they sort of ended up using these trees as shelter, perhaps a more symbolic shelter than anything else."



TIM JONES' "Hidden #1" can be seen in the No Boundaries International Art Colony Catalogue, available at Bottega Art and Wine, now open, and located downtown Wilmington at 208 Front Street.



GAYLE TUSTIN is one of seventeen artists who participated in the No Boundaries International Art Colony in 2004.

Surrender. Quiet. They're ails. As with beauty,

"Waiting," Toll informs us, "is a painting of a woman waiting superimposed on a painting of a figure floating in the sea—a painting about surrender, maybe. It is framed with one of my painting shirts."

Surrender. Quiet. They're ails. As with beauty,

The Place

In tandem with the reception for the No Boundaries International Art Colony 2004 catalogue, the hosting art gallery, Bottega Art & Wine, itself, will be celebrating their unveiling.

Gallery owners Bonnie England and Steven Gibbs are artists-entrepreneurs whose advertised objective is to "provide an essential gathering place for artists, collectors, wine enthusiasts and the ever-evolving beer connoisseur." Still under construc-

tion, by reception day the gallery will have a bar with ten stools around it, a sofa lounge area and two other seating options.

"But basically we are an art gallery," says Gibbs. "We are an art gallery at heart, with the addition of the beer and wine bar by its side. We're not a wine bar per se. We do have, generally, high-end beer and wine—about thirty-five wines on the list, with a concentration of organic products. Organic beers, wines, juices, organic coffee, certain things like that.

"It's an art gallery where you can sit down, enjoy the art, or walk around at your leisure. Enjoy a sip of wine with some nice music in the background," continues Gibbs.

Talking about what to expect at the NBI reception, England explained that each artist that participated in No Boundaries will be presenting two of his/her works. Interestingly, the International artists', as opposed to local artists' artwork will be, exclusively, pieces created during their NBI experience at Bald Head Island. Local artists can offer more recent works.

The No Boundaries exhibition runs for two months, from March 24th thru May 20th 2006. Catalogues sell for \$20 each—a work of art in itself.