Nature’s timelessness, beauty, and vitality subject of new art exhibition in Westchester

“The Art of the Garden” opens at Lazarus Gallery at United Hebrew of New Rochelle

50 Paintings, Sculptures, Photographs and Collages on view from June 11 – September 13, 2017

“Nature has tremendous force and vitality; it’s vivid, colorful, beautiful and has a power to heal.”

(New Rochelle, NY—May 24, 2017)... For so many Westchester residents, nature’s bounty and beauty are two of the county’s great assets. So, an art exhibition that captures nature’s essence will have special meaning to those who live and work here.

Opening on June 11, “The Art of the Garden,” a juried show, organized by United Hebrew of New Rochelle, will feature 50 beautiful and evocative paintings, photographs, sculptures and mixed media by 33 emerging and established artists from across the New York metropolitan region and beyond, depicting nature in all its glory. The exhibition was organized by Robin Zane, Curator, and Jodi Moise, Gallery Advisor for United Hebrew. Zane said they received over 100 submissions, ultimately selecting a mix of pieces that ooze color and beauty in an array of textures designed to engage viewers, according to Zane.

“One will see a riot of colorful flowers fronting a beach town shop, an endless path snaking through the woods, and a sun-dappled rose garden in a New England village in three of the selected works. According to Rita Mabli, President and CEO of United Hebrew, “When you see these works, you feel transported to a sunny day from your past or a far-away land you’ve yet to see. We always look for works that connect viewers to the art and each other—residents in our care, their families, and visitors. “For some of our residents, for whom going outside is difficult, the artwork brings the outside in, for them to enjoy.”

United Hebrew offers an array of supportive care services including assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation, and long-term skilled nursing. Their Lazarus Gallery is located at 391 Pelham Road, New Rochelle. An opening reception, which will be free and open to the public, will be held from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on June 11. Exhibition hours are from 9 to 5 daily.
The artists whose work will be shown include Judith Aronow; Lois Bender; Mary Ann Balco Berry; Karen Silver Bloom; Nina Birnbaum; Arnold Breisblatt; Tatiana Ferraro; Lynne Friedman; Sarah Harding Glickman; Michelle Golias; Claudia Gorman; Alice Harrison; Lydia Hassan; Simone Kestelman; Corinne Lapin-Cohen; Linda Lighton; Tina Link; Sharon Linsker; Carla Lombar; Angela Manno; Claire Marcus; Monique Michaels; Harvey Milman; Terri Olson; Yangyang Pan; Leslie Prokopiv; Renee Pasquale; Aija Sears; Annie Shaver-Crandell; Regina Silvers; Dennis Thornton; Mitchell Visoky; Liliana Washburn.

About the Art and Artists

Among the works is a painting called “Topiare Flower Shop,” a watercolor of a Sag Harbor flower shop by New York City-based artist, Lois Bender. The daughter of Flora Bloom (really!), Bender said she loves the idea of translating nature through art. “Nature has tremendous force and vitality and has a power to heal,” she notes. The exhibition also features her mixed media “Pond Tableau” and her painting, “Flower Squiggle Grid,” with a repetition of flowers reminiscent of Andy Warhol. “Life is vivid and colorful and I like to bring that out through art,” Bender says.

Internationally acclaimed multi-media artist, Simone Kestelman, who has shown her work in South America, Greece, and the US, has two sculptures featured in the show. Her work is influenced by her childhood in Brazil, where she says she was exposed to the city’s beauty and its dark side. Striking landscapes, architecture, music and food were often in the shadow of violence and extreme socio-economic inequality, according to Kestelman, who strives to create art that reflects both beauty and pain. “My work is a way to talk about the human condition: life, death, love, hate, beauty, violence. Art has the power to heal,” she says.

“Endless Path” a smooth and wavy glass piece, is about moving forward in the face of adversity. Kestelman created the sculpture shortly after her daughter was diagnosed with diabetes, while on her own personal journey of helping her daughter adapt to her new health condition. “I believe that the bad times in our lives put us on a direct path to very best time in our lives. We can never give up,” she says. “Bridesmaid’s Bouquet,” a sculpture made of a tree branch, glass and ceramic flowers and pearls, was originally created for the Corning Museum of Glass. “A wedding is one of the most important moments in life, and flowers are a symbol of fertility and growth. Mother Nature is a healer, and one of her most powerful gifts comes in the form of flowers.”

“Rockport Garden,” a painting by artist Michelle Golias, reflects several summers she spent as part of the Rockport Arts Association, the active and nationally-known artists’ colony in Massachusetts. Her goal as an artist is to relate, through painting, a heightened sense of consciousness to the viewer. “Painting from life is an amazing experience. Nature is fleeting and so it is exciting to translate it with color and brushwork.” Golias said exhibiting at United Hebrew, a healthcare organization, was meaningful for her. “Whether it is through color, or mood, or atmosphere, a painting can change the energy of the environment, and the viewer. Art can be more than oil on canvas, it can be tranquil beauty that enhances our lives.”

“Dawn of a New Day,” a three-dimensional photographic work is by Monique Michaels, whose professional work is an “exploration and combination of organic, botanical, textile art and light boxes.” A regular contributor to The New Yorker, Manhattan, Angeleno, C, Los Angeles, and Pasadena Magazines, she often uses “a visual narrative through the seasons, winter, spring, summer and autumn, while combining elements, air, fire, water, earth and ether as imaginative three-dimensional story telling embarking on a journey through timelessness using the magic of
mother nature.”

The Art of the Garden will be free and open to the public daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at United Hebrew’s Lazarus Gallery. A portion of the sale of artwork will support United Hebrew’s expert services and enriching programs. For more information contact Linda Forman, Senior Advisor to the President, United Hebrew, 914.632.2804 x1224 or lforman@uhgc.org.

About United Hebrew
United Hebrew of New Rochelle (uhgc.org) is a vibrant not-for-profit, non-sectarian, multi-service campus of comprehensive care nestled on 7.5 acres. United Hebrew has been serving the Westchester metropolitan area since 1919, and today, works with more than 1,000 clients daily. Services include: Long-Term Skilled Nursing; Burke Rehabilitation at United Hebrew; Willow Towers Assisted Living (The Beverly and Alfred J. Green Pavilion, Memory Care at Willow Gardens, The Phoenix Neighborhood and Griffen Program at Willow Towers, and Nightingale Neighborhood at United Hebrew Independent Senior Housing (Low-Savin Soundview Senior Apartments); Health at Home (AZOR Licensed Home Health Care and a Certified Home Health Agency); and Private Geriatric Care Management Services (Raven Care Advocates). For more information, call (914) 632-2804 or visit www.uhgc.org.