

Arts & Galleries

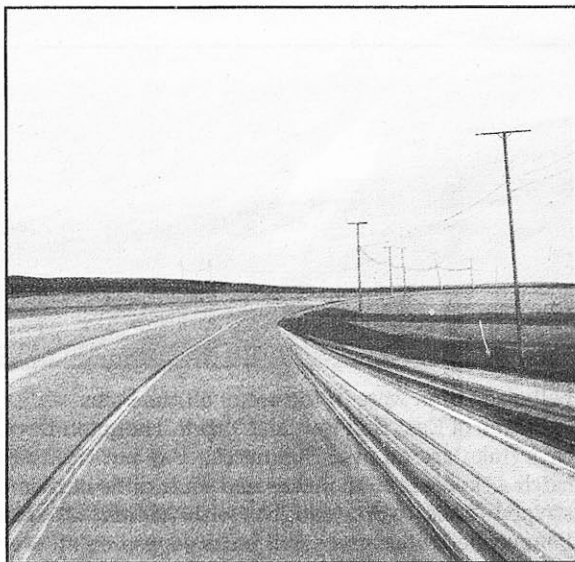
"Summer Show" at the Silas Marder Gallery

It was a hot day to be hanging out in a barn. But art is always worth it to me, and the cool vibe at the Silas Marder Gallery in Bridgehampton is disarming, even when it's fast approaching 100 degrees outside.

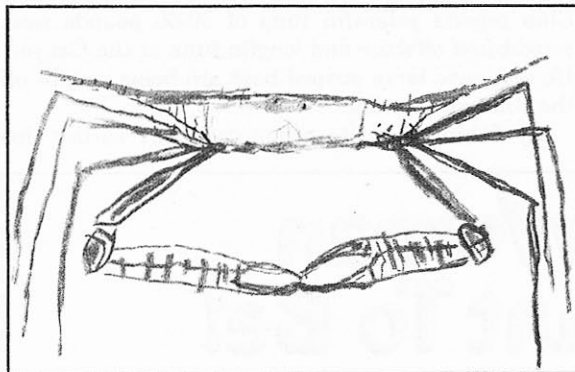
Until August 20th, you can stop by this unique and original space to view the "Summer Show," a collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures and an installation. There is figurative work and abstract work and a contrast of tones and textures, even though the theme of light-hearted, outdoorsy, warm weather sentiments is evident.

I was first struck by the playful and colorful pastel-on-paper drawings done by Mica Invisible Marder, brother to the gallery owner and one of several members of the Marder family involved in the arts. The series depicts mostly happy fowl, but there are a few crustaceans as well. Mica seems to be in an animal groove at the moment. There are two metal sculptures, one a diving bird that hangs and swings from a corner of the barn and the other an octopus, resolutely sitting on a table in the center of the main room. This black and menacing octopus has caused quite a stir from gallery patrons – I think there is a waiting list of those interested in purchasing it. The bird is much larger, slightly menacing in its own way, but they are both spirited and sensuous and I thought they were magnificent. Mica is casting similar ones in much larger forms and I am looking forward to when they make it to the gallery. They add a very dramatic flair to a very placid place.

Also arresting in the main room is a painting by Grant Haffner, a black and white work that shows the meeting of the tops of telephone poles – the convergence of wires from a perspective that reveals nothing but the grey and white of the afternoon. I found this work to be lovely in a lonely and forlorn way. It reminded me of empty roads on long drives in the win-



"Mecox," by Grant Haffner, acrylic on board



"Untitled (Crab #3), by Mica Invisible Marder, pastel on paper

ter. When I shared that connotation with Silas, he seemed surprised at my description of bleak and beautiful, but I meant it very positively.

In another part of the main room is an installation by local artist Almond Zigmund. It is a striking, black configuration of shapes that are reminiscent of a lattice. They run up and down a wall and over part of window and after a space, continue on the wall. This gives the feeling the shapes are moving and morphing. Across from this is a diptych painting by Jocelyn Hobbie. It depicts a rather perturbed looking woman, on one canvas, and she faces, on the other canvas, encroaching foliage as well as a gloomy area of black. Together, the canvas and the installation seem, in Silas' words, to communicate with one another, and I agree. It is a striking set up.

There are more works in the back room and upstairs that are worth checking out, and of course, being situated on the gorgeous property of Marder's Nursery, Silas has plenty of room for an outdoor sculpture garden that holds work both created for his space and brought in for the exhibition. In the future, he will be expanding the sculpture garden, and it will really be something to explore.

The gallery will be open through November and then closed for the winter months. Now only in its second year, the Silas Marder Gallery promises to be a worthy addition to the Hamptons art tradition, and another venue for art-hungry New Yorkers who spend so much time out here.

—Robin Feman

The Silas Marder Gallery is located on Snake Hollow Road, Bridgehampton. Call 631-702-2306 or info@silasmarder.com