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# Nostalgia at Silas Marder Gallery in Bridgehampton

BY STEVE PARKS | [steve.parks@newsday.com](mailto:steve.parks@newsday.com)

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Opinion polls show that Americans, by a wide margin, believe the nation is on the wrong track. A new group show at the Silas Marder Gallery in Bridgehampton endorses that view, exploring themes of nostalgia, waste, greed, heroism, iconography and disregard for the social good.

"We've tried to do something that reflects the overall mood of the country going into the election," says gallery owner Marder, "regardless of how one feels about the outcome." About half the works are by [Long Island](#) artists.

**TIMES ARE TOUGH.** Marc Burckhardt offers an ancestral view of the current state of affairs: portraits of elders peering back at us with brooding disengagement. Next to these acrylics, faux antique visages is "Blind Ravens," an oil study by [John Alexander](#) of Amagansett, who was recently the subject of a retrospective at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. His crows evoke images of blinded-by-greed investment bankers ravaging the spoils. "Birth of a Nation," a collage by Oliver Peterson of Sag Harbor, features a blood-soaked flag and a faded dollar.

**HEROES AND VILLAINS.** [John Morse](#)'s remnant portraits - scraps of brightly colored paper arranged in startling likenesses of [Frederick Douglass](#), [Abraham Lincoln](#), Sitting Bull and Susan B. Anthony - stand in contrast to tiny acrylic and graphite renderings of petty criminals from 19th century mug shots, all by Joseph Saunders of Westhampton.

**EMPERORS BEWARE.** Alison Byrnes offers two primitive-style depictions of the perils of power. In "Parallel Lives," Roman Emperor Claudius and American [President Zachary Taylor](#) appear to be witnessing their own future demise, while in "Galba as Kennedy," the JFK assassination limousine is reimagined as a Roman carriage borne by slaves.

**BIRD BRAINS.** As you climb to the loft of the two-level barn gallery, you're greeted by a flock of life-size turkeys on the far wall, each a separate mixed media on paper by Silas Marder's brother, Mica, (both grew up in Springs). The turkey, a symbol of our favorite national holiday, was Ben Franklin's candidate for national bird. At least the turkey was never an endangered species, unlike the bald eagle.

**OPTIMISM?** The one collab- orative piece in the show, "Anniversary" by Jacob McGraw and Rachell Sumpter, is a 5-by-7-inch silk-screen of fireworks bursting in the sky above a hilltop pine tree.

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**WHAT** "America," group show on the state of the nation

**WHEN|WHERE** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (but not this weekend), and by appointment, through Jan. 12, at the Silas Marder Gallery, 120 Snake Hollow Rd., Bridgehampton

**INFO** Free; 631-702- 2306, silasmarder.com.

**WHAT** "Chroma," works by a diverse group of 13 artists, all of whom use color as the primary object in their creations.

**WHEN|WHERE** Through Jan. 15 at the Ruth S. Harley University Center, [Adelphi University](#), Garden City.

**INFO** Free; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days; 516-877-4462.

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**Related topic galleries:** [Frederick Douglass](#), [Abraham Lincoln](#), [Long Island](#), [Zachary Taylor](#), [John Morse](#), [Wildlife](#), [Adelphi University](#)

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