

Randall Schmit: Recent Work/Solo Exhibition opens July 6 at McDaris Fine Art

By Barbara Reina

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World renowned Artist and Columbia County resident Randall Schmit will be presenting his recent work as a solo exhibition at the McDaris Fine Art gallery in Hudson with an opening reception Saturday, July 6 and appearance by the artist from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The exhibition runs through Sunday, August 11 during regular gallery hours from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Monday and by appointment. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Considered a third generation Abstract Expressionist, Visual Artist and Painter Randall Schmit has exhibited widely, with several dozen solo exhibits in the USA and Europe. Schmit is a recipient of the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Grant; the US Consulate Invitational Travel Grant (Istanbul, Turkey) and is the 2011 recipient of the Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation Individual Artist's Support Grant.

His paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC and New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA, as well as a host of other notable museums.

Schmit has mastered the combined use of fabric collage, acrylic oil, household enamel, felt-tip marker and charcoal on canvas to create a new experience for art lovers.

"The new paintings combine in differing degrees organic shapes and urban as well as pastoral landscape creating an ever-unfolding space that interweaves like the process of memory," Schmit commented.

An official statement from the McDaris Fine Art gallery describes Schmit's recent work as a view having endless possibilities.

It states: "Randall Schmit's paintings subvert the quotidian world. Drawings resembling comic book illustrations partner with heavy, mahogany slashes and bright hued punctuations of paint to collapse expression and representation. Complete access to compartmentalized vignettes is energetically denied. The resulting tension is obliquely sensual, and coexists with a broad range of feelings and characteristics: banality, anger, hilarity, urbanity, tenderness, delight and innocence for example. Together, these paintings describe a fluid relationship between the conscious and subconscious. Within them, as within the human psyche, the possibilities are encyclopaedic."

Schmit said his studio in Valatie affords him the environment he desires to create. "Working in my Valatian studio offers me the quiet, contemplative time for my paintings to coalesce and grow organically, at the rate they themselves dictate. My dialogue with the paintings is greatly enhanced by this uninterrupted time and space, while the many aspects of the pictures also have the time to consolidate on the canvas," Schmit said.

I visited Schmit's studio in Valatie for a sneak preview of his recent work. As an unlettered and ordinary commoner enthusiastic about the world of art, I found Schmit's recent work a rewarding view at a walking glance and thought provoking at a more pensive, still, contemplative posture while peering into his paintings to continuously discover the mysterious and dimensional, dreamlike yet conscious; an active juxtaposition of scenes and images expressing time overlapping and unfolding.

With an MFA in painting from Texas A & M University where he also studied architecture, Schmit said that his works have changed over the years. "Over the years my work has gone from abstract to figurative and back. Presently the work is a unique combination of graphic novel figuration with architectural and sensual abstraction," Schmit said.

He commented that he has been influenced by "surrealism, abstract expressionism, film noir, comics, the writings of Samuel T. Coleridge and William Burroughs, science fiction and insect photographic illustration."

Schmit is the new President of Valatie Economic Redevelopment Association (VERA). He has also served as Vice president of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Valatie Free Library's proposed capital construction project to build a near net zero sustainable library.



Randall Schmit "Marlowe and Advisor", 2011; 66 x 66 inches, oil, acrylic, household glass and marker on canvas.