

AMR Open Studios Tour Featured Artists Part II

By Robert Brune
DELAWARE COUNTY
— The second installment of our AMR Open Studios Tour artist profiles celebrates four painters whose creative journeys could not be more different. From bold abstractions built around the power of color to expressive figurative works and imaginative visual storytelling, each artist has developed a distinct voice shaped by years of observation, experimentation, and personal discovery. Together they reflect the remarkable breadth of talent that continues to make the annual tour one of the Catskills' most anticipated cultural events.

DONNA TADELMAN
For Donna Tadelman, painting is an act of curiosity as much as expression. During the AMR Open Studios Tour, visitors were welcomed into a world where vibrant color, playful geometry, and imagination quietly coexist.

Her painting I'm Just Trying to Fit In offers a humorous self portrait that invites viewers to smile before looking more closely. Nearby, her colorful abstract compositions, which she affectionately calls "Sunhouse" paintings, grew from early experiments using dismantled cardboard boxes before evolving into rhythmic fields of color and movement.

"They're mostly about color," Tadelman ex-



Cena Pohl Crane



Donna Tadelman

plained. "Drawing matters, too. I don't think they work if they didn't have the movement."

Rather than pursuing realism, she creates visual rhythms that celebrate the relationships between shape, line, and color. Years of studying paintings in museums helped shape her artistic voice, but she says the real romance has always been with color itself.

"I always told myself, if there's something I can't do, I'll paint my version of it," she said with a laugh.

That outlook carries throughout her work. Every painting feels optimistic, playful, and deeply personal, encouraging viewers to slow down and discover unexpected harmonies within the seemingly simple forms. Like Tadelman her-

self, the paintings possess a quiet warmth that lingers long after the first glance.

CENA POHL CRANE
Cena Pohl Crane approaches painting as a process of discovery rather than illustration. Working without sketches or predetermined subjects, she begins with bold, gestural marks and allows figures, landscapes and emotional narratives to emerge gradually. "I look and respond and let the imagery reveal itself," she explained. Sometimes the meaning becomes clear only weeks or months later, giving the process what she described as the feeling of "dream therapy."

Her recent work was influenced by W. B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming," particularly the line, "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold." Paintings such as Young Mother reflect anxiety, tenderness and the fear of protecting loved ones during periods of conflict. Crane initially rendered the mother and child more realistically, but later returned with sweeping abstract brushstrokes that loosened the image and deepened its emotional impact.

Since leaving her career in technology and moving to Margaretville, Crane has devoted herself fully to painting. The transition has given her time to explore brighter palettes, energetic movement and the emotional vibration created by neighboring colors. "I wake up in the morning and I can't wait to get down here," she said. "I don't want to just make decoration. I want people to feel something and be energized by my work."

GARY MAYER
Illustrator and abstract painter Gary Mayer welcomed an impressive 175 visitors to his studio during the 2026 AMR Open Studios Tour, making it one of his busiest weekends yet. Along with several sales, Mayer said the most memorable visitor may have been a dog that enthusiastically joined its owner in a spirited singing performance, creating one of the tour's most unexpected moments.



Elizabeth Dimon



Gary Mayer

Over the past year, Mayer has remained highly active, producing a new body of work for a successful New York City exhibition featuring a restrained palette of gold, black, and white. He has also continued exhibiting in Kingston while expanding projects through Art Up in Margaretville.

Looking ahead, Mayer plans to create several large-scale sculptures and is producing a print for an international artist publication based in Berlin, where contemporary artists from around the world will each contribute original work to a collaborative volume scheduled for release this

ELIZABETH DIMON
Elizabeth Dimon's intricate three-dimensional collage structures invite viewers to slow down and explore. During this year's AMR Open Studios Tour, she continued work on a new piece titled The Watcher, allowing its story to unfold naturally rather than forcing a predetermined outcome. "Some of my favorite works have started with no particular idea," she said. "I really like to kind of not know where it's going when I start out."

Dimon, whose background is in film editing and photography, discovered her signature style during the pandemic when she transformed an ordinary wooden box into a sculptural collage. The result sparked an artistic direction she has enthusiastically pursued ever since.

For Dimon, the greatest reward of the Open Studios Tour was connecting with visitors. "It wasn't about selling the work so much as people just understanding it and being excited about it themselves," she reflected, emphasizing the conversations that brought her imaginative worlds to life.

Although each artist approaches the canvas from a unique perspective, they share a common desire to invite viewers into a conversation through color, composition, and imagination. The AMR Open Studios Tour continues to demonstrate that the region's artistic community is defined not by a single style, but by the diversity of voices that call these mountains home. It is that spirit of creativity and generosity that keeps visitors returning year after year.

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The Fleischmanns Report

By Harold Kuhn
August is off to a busy start in Fleischmanns, with community events, live music, art, and Village Fest preparations keeping the calendar full.

The Arts Inn Collective will host a "Donate As You Wish" fundraiser on Sunday, August 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. The afternoon will feature vocalist and pianist Lee Glance performing the music of Burt Bacharach, followed by high tea with desserts and tea sandwiches. Reservations are encouraged through the Arts Inn Collective.

Looking ahead, 1053 Gallery will open a new exhibition, Light Lives as

an Animal, featuring the work of Melissa Murray. The exhibit runs August 15 through September 13, with an opening reception on Saturday, August 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. The collection features paintings inspired by the forests of the Catskills and the relationship between light, nature, and memory.

Preparations continue for Village Fest, coming to Main Street on Sunday, September 6. Organizers have announced the first round of live music, with performances by Joe Colwell, Alivia George, Lali & The Pops, Sue's Garage, Garth Kravitz, and Jake-town Road, with additional performers expected to

be announced in the coming weeks.

Village Fest organizers are also seeking paid volunteers to assist with parking, setup, cleanup, wayfinding, and other event support throughout the day. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact a c t helloprinthouseeny@gmail.com.

With Village Fest now just a month away, expect to see more announcements and details in the coming weeks as plans continue to take shape. As always, be sure to get out, support our local businesses and organizations, and enjoy everything happening around the village.

To place an ad contact info: email
ataap16@gmail.com or (607) 435-
0795. Ask for Gretchen.