

The RIVERDALE PRESS

YO-HO



RIVERDALE ARTISTS, from left, Paulo Suzuki, George Gutierrez, Martin Moskof, Kayle Nochomovitz, Carole Naggar, Luis Fonseca, Lanny Lasky and David Fischweicher.



Photos by Stefan Cohen

RIVERDALIAN LUIS Fonseca illustrates how he creates a cyanotype — a photographic process of using chemicals and exposure to add an image. Pictured behind him is the piece, 'Diversions.'

Yonkers offers affordable alternative for artists

By Tommy Hallissey

When Luis Fonseca found a space in the YoHo Art Studios this past October on Craigslist, he thought he was mostly alone on the south side of the spacious old converted factory. He said it felt like "outer-Mongolia."

An industrial-looking, red-bricked building rising on Nepperhan Avenue in downtown Yonkers, the gritty, yet charming, space, he thought, is perfect for emerging artists living on a budget.

The Riverdalian approached George Huang, the building's owner, with an idea. Maybe an exhibition of his work would entice more artists to rent a studio.

Sure enough, it did. Two nearby spaces were rented.

But little did Mr. Fonseca know there was a budding artist community on the north side of the building in the lofty, high-ceilinged rooms — and to his delight — many renters hailed from Riverdale.

"Just the idea that my neighbors are artists makes me feel comfortable here," said Mr. Fonseca on a tour of his studio last week. He said there is a feeling of camaraderie, adding, it is a "bit of a throwback to being in school."

Now, Mr. Fonseca is one of nine Riverdalians to plant an easel there — almost a third of the total number of artists to set up shop.

Some local artists came together by chance; others, by design, like Martin Moskof and Kayle Nochomovitz, who are splitting a studio. The two Riverdalians met through Mr. Moskof's wife.

The artists come from different backgrounds and work with a variety of media. Michelle Frick, for example, is more likely to get her materials from a hospital than an art supply store.

As the Riverdalian's son, Nat, underwent four open-heart surgeries in the first

four years of his life, hospitals became a place of contemplation for Ms. Frick. The budding artiste has embraced the inspiration of medicine, incorporating medical supplies into her artwork.

She crafted several small birds out of heart monitors, intravenous connectors and surgical tape. "While my son was unconscious, I thought about his strong fixation for birds," said Ms. Frick. "Maybe all these supplies used to save him could have an animate quality."

Ms. Frick's work also includes a giant silk screen of a reconfigured heart like her son's. The piece will eventually be overlaid with notes from Nat's doctors. "These are the people who cared for him and this is what they did," she said, holding the larger-than-life blue and purple heart.

Carole Naggar's work also draws on life experience. The Riverdalian manufactures her own paper, in which she prints Japanese characters accenting tear sheets of Korean literature.

"It is something that is very spontaneous and contextual," she explained.

Ms. Naggar, an Egyptian who fled the country in the 1950s, is even creative and extemporaneous in the way she forms paper. She makes textured sheets, mixing bits of metal in with the tree pulp that eventually hardens to become paper.

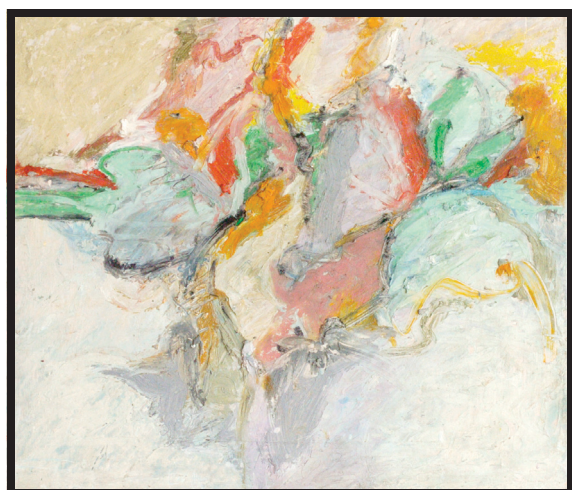
"You choose the paper, but the paper chooses you," Ms. Naggar said. "In a way depending on what you choose, you are directed to do different things."

These artists, as well as the other Riverdalians: Paulo Suzuki, George Gutierrez, Lanny Lasky, Ginny Fox, Lee Romero and David Fischweicher, will participate in the third annual YoHo Arts Open Studio Tour on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, from noon to 5 p.m., at 578 Nepperhan Ave., in Yonkers.

For more information on the artists or the YoHo Arts Studio, go to www.yohoart-gallery.com.

AT FAR RIGHT, artist Michelle Frick holds a small bird she created from hospital supplies.

AT RIGHT, Carole Naggar in front of her 'Tarashi-Komi' series, which means 'wet on wet' in Japanese.



ABOVE, MARTIN Moskof's 'Moving Mountain,' oil stick on masonite.



AT RIGHT, Kayle Nochomovitz's portrait of her son, oil on canvas.