

# BETTER LIVING

*The RIVERDALE PRESS*



Photos by Karsten Moran

RIVERDALE ARTISTS showed off their work at the seventh annual YOHO Artists Open Studio this past weekend. Above, a 9" x12" oil painting by Noelle Knight-Lee, entitled "Debt."

## Riverdale artist border crossing

By Kate Pastor  
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**R**iverdale artists are on an exodus to Yonkers.

With too few workshop spaces and too much talent to be contained in Riverdale's apartments, YOHO Center for the Arts on Nepperhan Avenue has been happy to accept the overflow.

At the seventh annual YOHO Artists Open Studio this weekend, Riverdadians in numbers never before seen at the gallery showed off their diverse body of work — a mix of ceramics, figurative, abstract, sculpture, digital and installation pieces.

In an enormous warehouse with corridors lined with filled rooms containing color-swathed canvases, homemade glazes and even a sculpture that requires watering to be kept alive, Riverdadians have found their home-away-from-home.

In one room was the work of George Gutierrez, *The Press'* first photo editor, who designs album-covers for musicians, using paper under paint to create texture, along with sheet music peeking out, exposing bars and notes in his musically-themed pieces.

A walk down the hallway rewards

guests with the art of Librado Romero, another Riverdale resident and staff photographer for *The New York Times*. His fascination with the city's water towers is made abundantly clear in the paintings he displayed, with one that featured a painted blue, yellow and orange tower against a grayish sky. For a nearby glimpse, his work also hangs at Kappock Café and Café Blue in Riverdale.

Michelle Frick, whose son underwent heart surgery, combines her two obsessions, birds and medical

a battery and an IV connector attached to a heart electrode that lights up when attached.

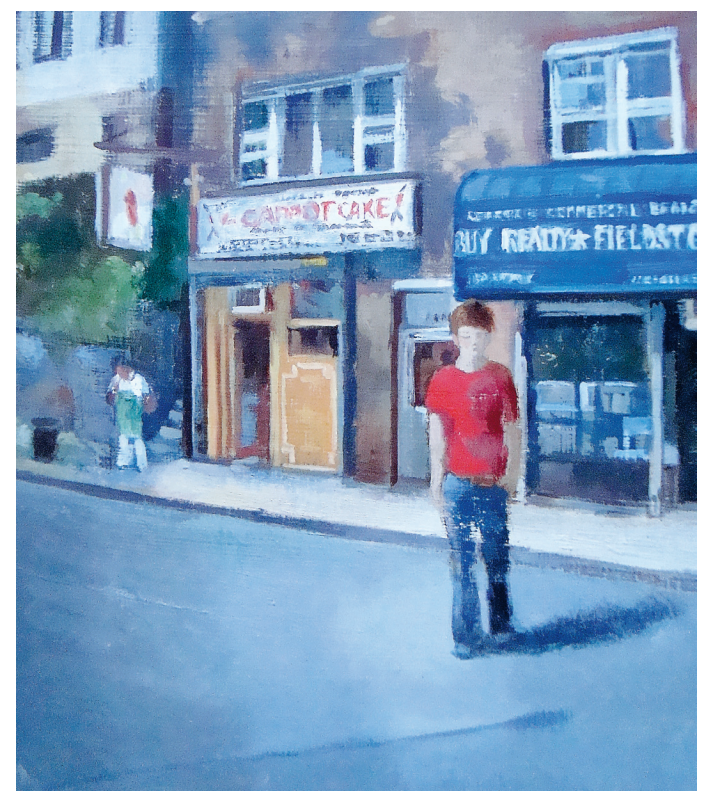
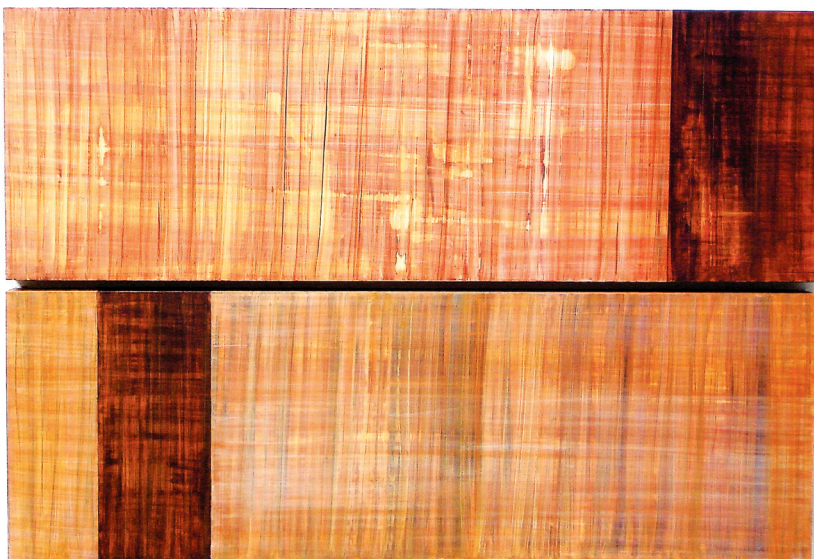
On a playful note, Adam Shultz took a new look at the sugary heart-shaped candies given out everywhere on Valentine's Day. One read Holy Carp, another said Fail. His work also includes paintings based on colors found in chocolate and candy on canvas.

Courtney White's Living Wall, a sculpture made of succulents and euphorbia held together by coconut fiber and vines, marks the end of a long hallway, but the figurative work of Laurie Vigoda is not far off. Her paintings, whether of salt and pepper shakers or of a woman engulfed in leaves, are decidedly feminine and part of her journey as a female artist.

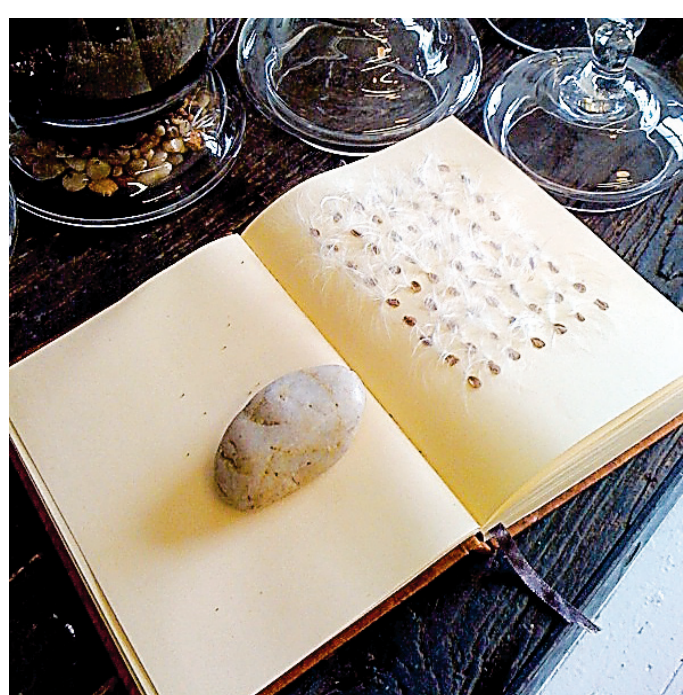
Nearby, another figurative artist, Noelle Knight, is a recent transplant. She takes an hour-long bus trip to YOHO every day to find space for her talent.

"Our Riverdale presence is at an all-time high right now," said George Huang, who rents space to the artists at the center.

"Riverdale really is right around the corner," he said.



supplies, in sculpture and installation pieces. She has recruited medical personnel in her mission to secure clean and unused supplies for her work. One sculpture that highlighted their help was a small bird stuffed in its rear with



WORKS ON SHOW included, clockwise from top left, structured paintings in acrylic on clayboard by Ginny Fox; a colorful mono-screenprint on fabric by Deborah Yasinsky; an oil piece entitled "Riverdale" by Noelle Knight-Lee; milkweed seed on paper by Courtney White; and one in Adam Shultz's series of 100 Candy Hearts.

Other Riverdale artists whose work was on display included RJ Dibenedetto, David Fischweicher, Michelle Frick, George Gutierrez, Carole Naggar, Joel Neff, Librado Romero, Paulo Suzuki and Laurie Vigoda.