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They're drawing from inspiration

BY TANYANIKA SAMUELS
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MORE than 30 artists will fling open the doors of their work spaces this weekend at the 10th annual YoHo Artists Open Studios.

About 10 Bronx artists will take part in this free art crawl in Yonkers that draws hundreds from around the region.

"We're very much about being open to the curious public," said artist and organizer Adam Shultz. "It's a unique experience."

Inspired by African and Native-American sculpture, artist Michael Cuomo, of Throgs Neck, uses found objects such as toys and clothing to craft intricate masks.

His collection, "Heads of State," features 66 masks.

"I want people to see a reflection of themselves" said Cuomo, 38. "That's what art is all about."

Glenn Fischer sifts through thrift stores and yard sales to find vintage books, magazines and record album covers for his contemporary collages.

"I love working with paper. I feel like I'm going into (these places) to rescue them and give them a new life," he said.

Fischer, 46, of Riverdale, cuts the colorful materials into strips then applies them to panels to create geometrical assemblages.

"For me, it's a very intui-

tive process," he said. "The materials often dictate where the pieces go."

In a nearby studio, artist Ginny Fox, also of Riverdale, creates abstract paintings inspired by nature and architecture. She streaks her multipaneled pieces with vibrant hues and linear markings.

"There is a subtle narrative throughout," said Fox, 59. "There is change happening even though they look very similar."

Custom painter Steve Nuñez is known for photorealism. The Crotona Park artist customizes motorcycles, cars and Jet Skis with vivid imagery ranging from pinup girls to the macabre.

"The biggest difference

between me and the other artists is that they paint what they like and sell it to the world. I am more an artist for hire and my job is to fulfill the nonartists' dreams," said Nuñez, 44.

The self-taught Nuñez discovered photorealism as a teenager and never looked back.

"I like anything photorealistic," he said. "I like the challenge of making people think, 'Is that a photo? Is that really a picture?' I like the wonder behind that."

YoHo Artists Open Studios is open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 578 Nepperhan Ave. in Yonkers. Visit YohoArtists.com.

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Bronx artist Michael Cuomo, one of dozens of artists opening up work spaces to the public during 10th annual YoHo Artists Open Studios event. Photo courtesy of Lee Romero