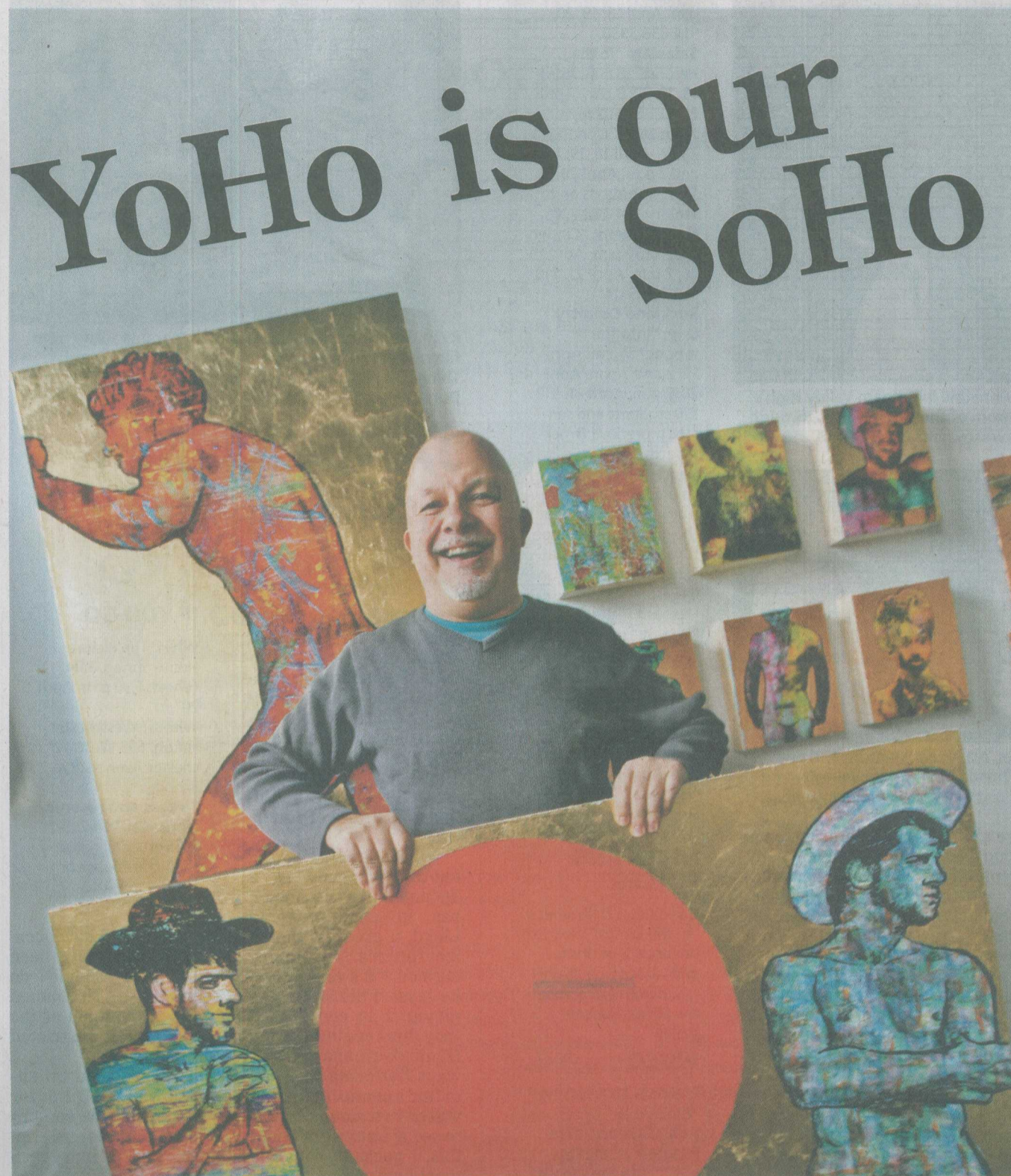


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The Journal News

Puzzles inside
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John Wujcik is among the artists who will be opening their studios to the public at the 10th Annual YoHo Open Studios in Yonkers this Saturday and Sunday. PHOTO BY LEE ROMERO

Thriving artists community makes Yonkers a go-to destination this weekend

By Heather Salerno
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Art lovers from all over the region will be flocking to YoHo this weekend.

The 10th annual YoHo Artists Open Studios takes place on Saturday and Sunday, offering the chance to explore the studios of painters, sculptors, photographers and other artists who now make their professional home at the former carpet-factory-turned-arts-complex in downtown Yonkers.

More than 800 people are expected to attend the free event at the Alexander Smith Carpet Mills Building on Nepperhan Avenue, from

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IF YOU GO

What: The 10th Annual YoHo Artists Open Studios

When: Noon to 5 p.m. April 20 and 21

Where: YoHo Artist Studios, Alexander Smith Carpet Mills Building, 578 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers.

Details: For more information, go to yohoartists.com.

HIGH-SCHOOL MUSICALS



The cast of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at Rye High School is, back row from left: Grace Dowling ("Sally"), Nathaniel Deen ("Schroeder"), John Arens ("Charlie Brown"), Danny Keller ("Linus"). Front row, Ben DeMarco ("Snoopy") and Clare Cecil ("Lucy"). CARUCHA L. MEUSE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Polar theatrical opposites

'Phantom' in Put Valley, 'Charlie Brown' in Rye
2 sides of theatrical coin

By Peter D. Kramer
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Two of the eight musicals opening this weekend at high schools across the Lower Hudson Valley demonstrate the spectrum of shows available to theatergoers: Putnam Valley's "Phantom of the Opera" and Rye's "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

"Phantom" is dark, sung-through opera about a shadowy figure lurking beneath the Paris Opera. "Charlie Brown" is a primary-colors adaptation of a newspaper comic strip about a boy and his dog.

Whether you choose to see Lucy pulling the football away from poor Charlie or the Phantom and his twisted teacher-student ties to soprano Christine Daae, both shows have something to say about relationships and represent the fruit of weeks of rehearsal, of character work, of lines learned, set changes mastered and lighting cues perfected.

If you attend one of these shows — or "Godspell" at Ursuline, "In the Heights" at Salesian, "Working" at John Jay, "Cinderella" at North Salem, "Into the Woods" at Rockland Country Day, or "The Pajama Game" at Pearl River — you'll see kids collaborating. You'll see proud parents. You'll hear deafening applause. There will be cookies at intermission and flowers and kisses after the final curtain.

Come Monday, they'll be a memory, but one to last a lifetime for their casts and crews.

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Westchester holds all good things for Andrew Jarecki

Rye filmmaker to be honored by The Picture House in Pelham

By Karen Croke
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Although his films take him to unexpected places and delve into his subjects' deepest secrets, Andrew Jarecki finds life the same as always when he heads home to Rye. He grew up there with three brothers, including filmmakers Eugene and Nick, and parents who were in the movie business. His father, Henry, is a producer;



magazine.

"I used to go to Pelham to see movies at The Picture House," says Jarecki, by phone from the set of his latest project. "I think I saw 'The Goodbye Girl' there. I remember it was kind of a drive, but you would always see these interesting movies there."

Add Jarecki's own films to the list. His first project, "Capturing The Friedmans," a 2003 documentary about a father and son who were tried and convicted in the 1980s of sexually molesting stu-

Prize at Sundance and was nominated for an Academy Award. In 2010, he released his first feature film, "All Good Things," starring Ryan Gosling, Kirsten Dunst and Frank Langella. "All Good Things" was a fictionalized account of the life of Robert Durst, son of a major local real estate family who was arrested, tried and acquitted on charges of killing and dismembering a neighbor in Texas.

On Saturday, Jarecki will receive the

YOHO: Meet the artists at open studio event this weekend

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gallery owners and curators to curious visitors looking for an interesting way to spend the day.

But the tour isn't just a way to see an outstanding range of artwork outside a museum, gallery or shop: It's also an opportunity to meet the artists themselves and ask questions about their creative process, while enjoying food, drink and live music together.

"In that building, the people are really friendly and engaging and fun, so it just seems impossible that an event we put on together wouldn't be all those things," says Yonkers resident Meghan Orbek, a painter who will be included in the tour for the first time. "It's going to be a huge party."

Before moving her studio to the sprawling, century-old building two years ago, Orbek worked out of her grandparents' Harrison home, which was rent-free "but isolating."

She was attracted to YoHo's affordability, where rent can be as low as \$300 a month, a major draw for many artists who are priced out of New York City or other parts of Westchester. The renovated industrial site also features high ceilings, exposed beams and massive pane windows that allow abundant natural light to cascade inside. A recent expansion was added, featuring more studios, a gallery and common areas.

But Orbek equally admired the complex's sense of community: Artists are constantly interacting, she says, whether it's meeting up for figure drawing sessions, critiquing each other's work or simply hanging out.

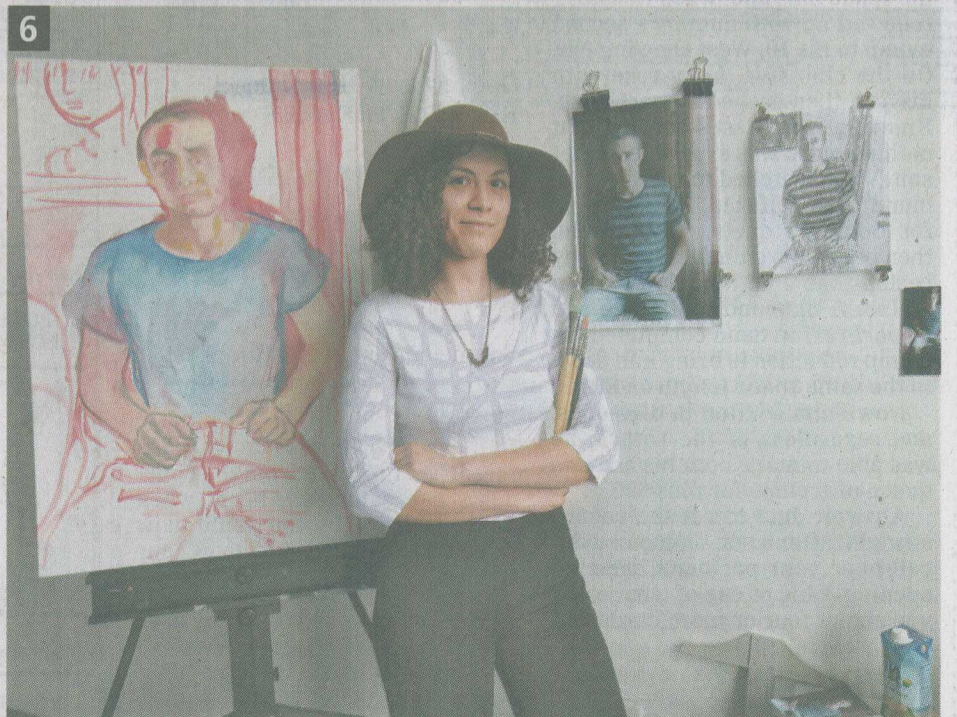
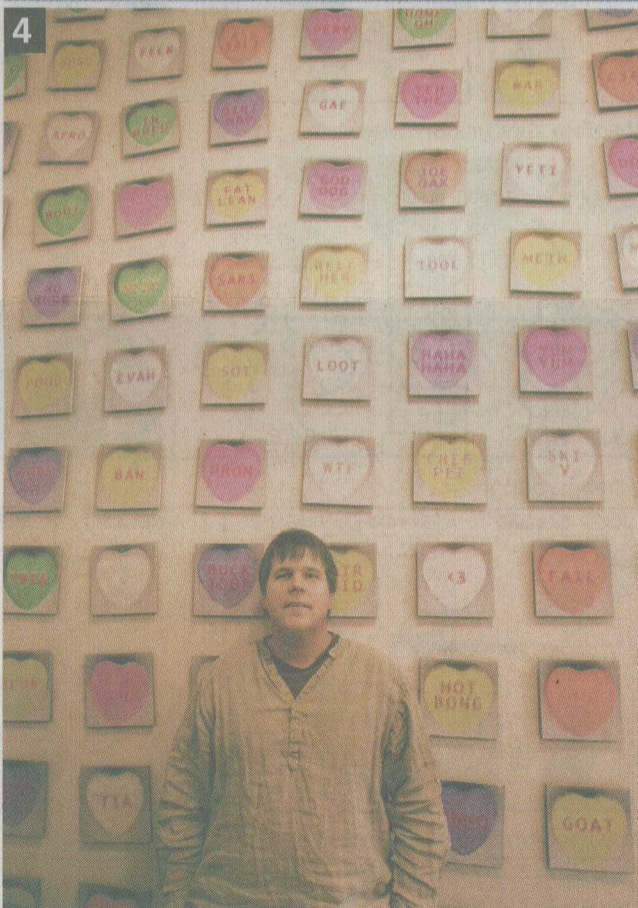
"Sometimes it's like an episode of 'Friends,'" she says, with a laugh.

Orbek makes all of her own paint from scratch, mixing in rocks, leaves, flowers and other organic material to give her pieces a bumpy texture. She sees the studio tour as a useful showcase, a friendly way to exhibit her work for potential buyers without "wheeling and dealing to get shows, which is not my thing."

Irvington's Adam Shultz, a painter and sculptor who is one of the tour's organizers, says he's encouraging all participants to display a variety of art, from small, relatively inexpensive items that guests can purchase right in the studio, to museum-quality compositions.

But for him, one of the best parts of the tour is engaging with people from all walks of life, who often offer raw, unvarnished assessments of his work. He welcomes such candid reactions, since he rarely gets them in other settings.

At Open Studios, Schultz adds, "You get a pretty good idea at the end of the weekend of what's working and what isn't as far as aesthetics, and I think that's valuable. I pay careful attention."



Meet some of the artists who will be opening their studios at the 10th annual YoHo Artists Open Studios Saturday and Sunday in Yonkers.

PHOTOS BY LEE ROMERO

- 1. Michael Coumo
- 2. Meghan Orbek
- 3. Noel Hennelly
- 4. Adam Shultz
- 5. David Fischweicher
- 6. Leah Cobelli

He says it's great, too, to be able to give outsiders a sense of the art center's vitality. YoHo's members are an eclectic mix, including musicians, collage makers, multimedia artists and a stained-glass restorer, and Shultz finds associating with like-minded neighbors every day to be very energizing

"Every time you walk in the door, you feel the creativity," he says.

MORE ONLINE

See a gallery of photos of the artists, and a video about the YoHo complex at lohud.com