



THE CENTER FOR
emerging visual artists™

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M A N Y P E R S P E C T I V E S . A S I N G L E F O C U S .
Helping to build sustainable careers for emerging visual artists.

Annual Review 2003/2004



THE CENTER FOR
emerging visual artists™

We try to look at our programming and impact on the community from many different perspectives and invite as many members of the community into The Center as we can. Our achievements this year, described on the following pages, are the direct result of the contributions and perspectives of the people who are engaged in our work.



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COVER



"Before I knew it, my work was out there being sold. Most important, I have been meeting the people in the community I need to know."

Jill Bell
Current artist

Jill Bell
"The Moment it Becomes Silly" 9 x 20 x 6"
Ceramic, 2004



Maida R. Milone, President & CEO

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

It's a pleasure to report on a terrific year for Creative Artists Network. We were able to pull off an extensive programming schedule that thrilled our audiences, while simultaneously doing intensive organizational assessment, infrastructure development and strategic planning. And while we worked harder than we thought possible, we enjoyed ourselves — secure in the knowledge that we and our supporters are building an important community asset.

Our programming continues to expand and deepen.

We can only attract quality artists to our Career Development Program if our programming is stellar. While no other organization in the region offers our unique combination of services to emerging visual artists at no cost, other groups offer bits and pieces of our services to artists, often for a price. We have had to face the competition, become self-conscious about our programming, and pump it up to be certain we are meeting all the important needs of artists now. You'll see the dramatic expansions in our Career Development and Regional Community Arts Programs described in this Review.

And we plan to continue to grow and refine our offerings to better serve all emerging visual artists in this region.

The people who participate in the programming have made the difference.

For a service organization, the quality of the people who provide the services determines the quality of the services. We were blessed this past year with the generous involvement of talented people who gave their time and advice to our artists and staff, including curators, speakers and members of our Board of Artistic Advisors. Most important, are the artists, both our current and alumni artists who continue to bring their gifts to us, to other emerging artists, and to the community that needs them to record our culture for the ages.

We supported our growth by solidifying and expanding our donor base.

Although we do not have an endowment or large cash reserve to help us through slow times and disruptions in the economy, over the past two years, we have managed to take the organization from net-zero or deficit budgets to budget surpluses, increases in staff size and capital improvements. With the help of the Board of Directors, we are building our donor base, keeping major funders well informed about and invested in our progress, and developing earned income opportunities.

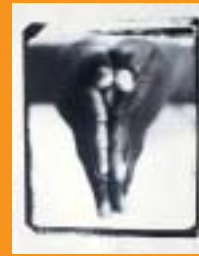
We have big dreams for the future. We're beginning by changing our name.

We were fortunate to be chosen to participate in the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative's Organizational Assessment Program and took a hard look at our infrastructure and decision making processes this year. That participation moved the staff and Board to reach consensus on our mission and facilitated development of our ambitious three-year Strategic Plan. We are energized by the course we have charted and want to share our ideas and enthusiasm in this Review. As the cover tells you, we are taking the bold step of renaming the organization **The Center For Emerging Visual Artists™** so that all our constituencies can identify who we are and what we do just from our name. To honor our history and the woman whose insights, energies and commitment brought this organization into being and sustained it during much of its life, we will be dedicating our exhibition space The Felicity R. "Bebe" Benoliel Gallery.

We thank you all for your continuing interest in and support of The Center For Emerging Visual Artists and look forward to making the challenging journey before us with you.

Yours truly,

Maida R. Milone, President & CEO



Susan Cunningham
"Hands, 1972" 7.5" x 9.5"
Polaroid negative, 2002



Hoppi Emberson
"Lottery" 19" x 25"
Acrylic, 2002



Jill Bell
"You're Not Trying To Get Better" 8" x 24" x 4"
Ceramic, 2001

THE CURATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

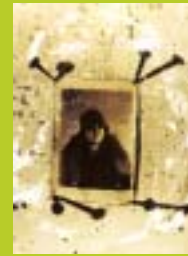
"I have been engaged in the work of The Center for several years as a member of the Board of Artistic Advisors, but I had never had the challenge and great pleasure of serving as one of its curators. By curating a show of current artists' work, I came to appreciate the very high quality and diversity of the work being done in the Career Development Program in a way I never had before. I was bowled over."

Leslie King-Hammond
Curator, Dean of Graduate Studies, Maryland Institute College
of Art and Member of The Center's Board of Artistic Advisors

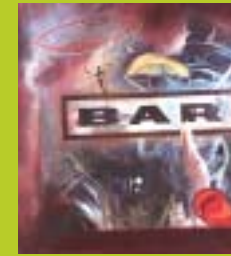
Creating exhibition opportunities for artists and curators

Our artists have told us that it is a major motivation to have a challenging schedule of exhibitions. Last year, we gave them just that by finding opportunities for exhibitions in an expanded range of venues and geography with new curators. We mounted eight shows, from Baltimore to Princeton, in cultural, academic and corporate spaces — including the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Maryland Institute College of Art, Moore College of Art, Morgan Lewis & Bockius, the West Collection at SEI Corporation, and Educational Testing Service. And our Visiting Curator program provided motivation and opportunity for an emerging curator, as well.

For the future, we're beginning to develop a Community Exhibitions program in the Philadelphia area to bring art to public spaces such as hospitals and clinics — enhancing the experiences of visitors and expanding exposure for regional emerging visual artists — in and out of our Career Development Program. We're also searching for and selecting spaces that will allow us to move awareness of The Center's programs and artists to other important art-aware communities, such as New York, and cities in Europe and Asia.



Berendina Buist
"Extended Family/Santiago" 8" x 10"
Silver gelatin/digital print, 2004



Jackie Fugere
"Bar" 40" x 40"
Hand colored photograph, 2003



Timothy Blum
"Came To Mobile, Alabama" Feather detail
Lead, brass bed, sheet, cast iron, 2000

THE DIRECT DIALOGUE SPEAKER'S PERSPECTIVE

"The Center provided a great forum for me to speak directly with artists. The programs and exhibitions offer unique and extremely valuable resources for the art community."

Miriam Seidel
Art critic, Direct Dialogue speaker

Establishing a powerful continuing education program for artists

The long-standing Direct Dialogue program has been a focal point of our outreach to artists throughout the region. And the tapes of those lectures and seminars have been at the core of our Resource Center. We've seen just how important these programs can be, and our plans are powerful.

We are working to create a cohesive, sequential curriculum of eighteen essential topics, ranging from financial advice, to presentation and promotional assistance, to basic skills in taking advantage of available support. The information will be presented in a two-year cycle through the Direct Dialogue program. We hope this will help the emerging artists throughout the region more successfully to manage their lives and careers. We also hope to make this program accessible to more artists by holding it in locations throughout the region.

Our Resource Center should also become an oasis of support for all emerging visual artists in the region — making information available on our website and in a physical space. We are planning for it to become a bustling place where artists come and go to do research, find funding or jobs, take advantage of our technology infrastructure, and receive guidance — one-on-one — from our knowledgeable staff.



Elaine M. Erne
"Pin Up Doll" 15" x 22"
Lithograph, 2003



Beth Livensperger
"Crowd" 12" x 11"
Egg tempera on panel, 2002



Michael Froio
"White Sluice Race Flood Plain, Bridgeport, NJ" 9" x 4.5"
Toned gelatin silver print, 2002

THE COLLECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

"My husband, Lee Osterman, and I enjoy collecting the works of emerging visual artists. We understand that you cannot help visual artists in this area just by giving them professional development services. You have to foster the growth of a public that understands, appreciates and buys their art. The Center is an organization that understands well the importance of the collecting public and is doing something about it."

Elissa Topol
Collector

Growing an audience that appreciates and collects emerging art

Our educational programs are working to benefit all emerging visual artists throughout the region. We began this focus last year with a special Direct Dialogue series on Collecting Emerging Art™. In the first of the series, a specialist from Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management discussed ways to make emerging visual art part of an investment strategy. In the second, a panel of local collectors discussed their own strategies and the joys of collecting. The second part of the series was given in conjunction with an exhibition — an immediate opportunity to begin or add to a collection.

The Collecting Emerging Art Series™ will become an annual series. And we will be instituting further programs to connect emerging artists in the region with audiences of potential collectors. A web-based gallery will make viewing — and collecting — possible around the clock. We have joined forces with Philadelphia Open Studios Tour this year to present the event — as it fits our mission to expand the audience for all the region's artists.



Laura Jean Zito
"Wall + Veil" 11" x 14"
Gelatin silver print, 2002



Satre Stuelke
"Outdoor Appliance" 9" x 12"
Ink on canvas, 2004



Anki King
"Secrets" 32" x 54"
Oil on canvas, 2002

THE ALUMNI ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

"I owe much of my success as an artist to the exposure The Center For Emerging Visual Artists has given me."

Ron Tarver
Photographer, Alumni artist

Expanding the program to accelerate career development

Our professional development and educational programs have proven their value for our artists in building sustainable, high-visibility careers. For example, The Center's artists are represented in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Delaware Art Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and many other public, corporate and private collections.

In the past year, we expanded programs and opportunities. Alumni artists are taking their place at the heart of The Center's activities through a new series of solo exhibitions in our gallery. And they are now meeting regularly in a goal setting group to discuss career issues and support each other. Current artists now have the advantages of individual professional career counseling, as well as one-on-one mentoring with members of the Board of Artistic Advisors. The whole community of artists is coming together through a more frequent exhibition schedule, more Direct Connections educational events, seminars designed for artists in our Career Development Program, and a bi-weekly newsletter.

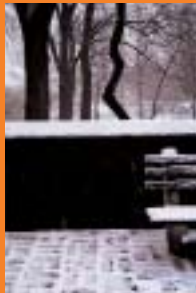
We're looking forward to improving and adding to the Career Development Program over the next several years, including a range of new high-prestige exhibition venues — national and international — and a travel grant program for alumni artists.



Songyi Kim
"The Practice 2" 30" x 44"
Digital print, 2003



John Shipman
"Sweetness Follows" 52" x 72"
Acrylic on canvas, 2002



Serge J-F. Levy
"Central Park West, NYC" 16" x 20"
Photo C-print, 2003



Michael DeLuca
"Small Blocks" 14" x 14"
Charcoal on paper, 2002

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Justyna Badach

- Leeway Window of Opportunity Grant

Ava Blitz

- Outdoor sculptural installation, "Zoo," exhibited at James A. Michner Art Museum, Doylestown, PA
- Sculpture, "Moby Dick," installed at Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ

Mary Blackey

- Named honorary life member by the Philadelphia Watercolor Society

Judy Gelles

- "Beach Boxes" exhibited at Lyons Weir Gallery, Chelsea, NY

Brian McCutcheon

- Work exhibited at the Jakarta Biennial
- Residency at University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

Nancy Sophy

- Leeway Window of Opportunity Grant
- Solo show at Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts

Ron Tarver

- Photographs from "We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans from World War II to the War in Iraq" exhibited at the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA

Diane Tomash

- Salmagundi Club Award for work exhibited at the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club's 108th Annual Open Exhibition at the National Arts Club, New York, NY

Josette Urso

- Full Fellowship Award, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
- American Artists Abroad, Art In Embassies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Solo exhibition, gescheidle, Chicago, IL
- Solo exhibition, Indiana University, South Bend, IN

CURRENT ARTISTS (AS OF JUNE 2004)

Jill M. Bell

Timothy Blum

Berendina Buist

Susan Cunningham

Michael DeLuca

Hoppi Emberson

Elaine M. Erne

Michael W. Froio

Jackie Fugere

John Greig

Songyi Kim

Anki King

Taliah Lempert

Serge J-F. Levy

Beth Livensperger

Shalya Marsh

Mike Mergen

Keith Sharp

John Shipman

Satre Stuelke

Laura Jean Zito

ALUMNI ARTISTS

Nancy Adler

Candida Alvarez

Pat Bacon

Justyna Badach

Howard Beaver

Rita Bernstein

Yarrott Benz

Tom Birkner

Mary Blackey

Ava Blitz

Christina Bothwell

James Boyle

Bill Brayton

Joseph Brenman

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Marty Fumo

Judy Gelles

Dan Gheno

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Lauren Goodrich

Christine Hiebert

Thom Hoffman

Lauren Litwa Holden

Jeff Hurwitz

Mario Francois Isenmann

Scott Jackson

Ben Johnson

Helen Sewell Johnson

Harry Kalish

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Smokie Kittner

Irena Konova

Germaine Ledford

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Mike Mergen
"Drive In" 18" x 24"
Inkjet print, 2003



Keith Sharp
"Legs" 20" x 16"
Toned silver gelatin print, 2004



Shalya Marsh
"Untitled" 16" x 7.5" x 6"
Ceramic, 2002



John Greig
"Echoes of the Golden Heart" 14" x 9" x 4"
Steel/clay, 2002



Taliah Lempert
"Andrew's American - Front View" 27.5" x 38.5"
Oil on paper, 2001

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