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The Psych Drama Company

For Immediate Release

The Psych Drama Company

10th Anniversary
International Season
Special Collaborator Spotlight

ArtLifting Artists

Romani Berlekov, Peter Perrino, & Susan Spangenberg

"For the streaming art exhibit during the intermission of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Addi Spearman of ArtLifting and I selected paintings that resonate with the motifs of sexuality and mortality which Tennessee Williams poetically captures in his dramatic masterpiece."
– Wendy Lippe, Ph.D., Producing Artistic Director, *The Psych Drama Company*

About Romani Berlekov

"If you are lost in these dark and trying times, I channel this beauty for you to bring you back to your heart. To your sacredness."

Romani Berlekov is an unofficial member of the local 'outsider' artist community in the Boston area, and you can find her on any given day on the streets of Boston, painting and selling her creations. Like so many other friends and colleagues, she is completely self-taught and continues to exuberantly experiment and learn. Her journey of creation is that of her own evolution.

Romani has been drawing and creating for as long as she can remember. She added oil painting and watercolors to her repertoire during her teens, and more recently began experimenting with acrylics and mixed media. Creating has been, and continues to be, an amazing meditation which produces pure and joyful manifestations in the physical realm.

She turned to art as a career during a very difficult time in her life. Romani explains, "Within a couple of years, my life fell apart." She went from studying at Harvard Extension School and working at a biotechnology pharmaceutical company to battling escalating disabilities - multiple sclerosis and bipolar disorder - coupled with housing insecurity and then, unemployment. She stumbled upon an art therapy program which led her to ArtLifting. She proudly explains, "I was the fifth artist to sign on with Artlifting, and truly, it has helped me survive."

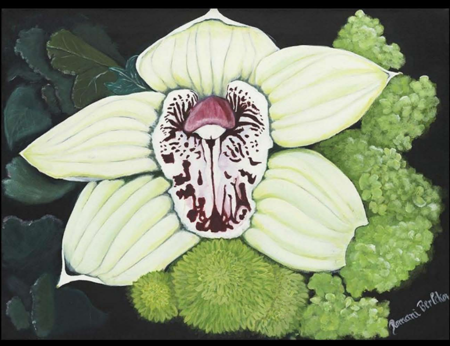
Romani says her works are not created necessarily to inform or enlighten, but rather to share and reconnect to the beautiful world around us. Her work bountifully provides the observer with keen reminders of the sheer beauty and subtle grace which is often overlooked in the rush and bustle of our modern society. Based on a realist orientation with a touch of whimsy, her style is a presentation of simplicity, elegance, grace, and truth.

"There is a particular, subtle magic in the first few hours after daybreak. I find my zen here...

Divinity flickering in the first rays of golden sunlight through the branches of the forest ~ Sacred shimmering atop the waves as they caress a naked shoreline ~ The holiness bursting in the buds of the early spring light...

I grab my canvas, brush, and oils, and walk along the edges of the early morning with you."

See Romani's work on ArtLifting >



Love: La Fleur, Romani Berlekov

About Peter Perrino

"Art has the ability to heal. I can attest to its power in my life. When illness has crashed all around me, my art has given me the fortitude to persevere."

Peter Perrino is a fine art abstract photographer and former fashion designer who had his own line of clothing from 1992-1996. He's lived in San Francisco since 1985. He turned to art when it became clear that he would have to forego his chosen profession of law. His clinical depression made concentration at an academic level impossible. He found that he could concentrate on art, and his creativity thrived.

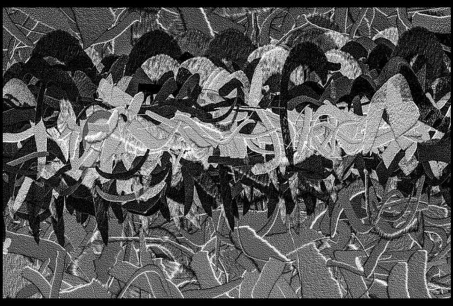
Peter began to dabble in film photography in 1995. He then began to pursue an interest in digital photography in 2013 after he stopped designing custom clothes for clients. In 2015, he had a creative hunch that he could produce something unique. He wanted to create fine art photography, just as he could create fine art with his fashion design.

He began to experiment with slow shutter speeds, f-stops, camera movements, and inventive post-processing techniques. The results exceeded expectations. His fine art abstract style was born along with a new business. He discovered that if he slowed down the world to a certain point through his camera, he could create a "new dimension." He likens it to the metaphorical "Twilight Zone" from the 1960's TV show.

"My photography has become a true passion. I feel grateful when I can get out for a few hours to shoot." When he returns to his computer, he's often surprised that he has no idea what a significant percentage of the images are from the day's shoot. This, in turn, fuels his creative interest to shoot more. "I never know what my camera will capture given my technique, and I never know what will ultimately become a fine art print until I perform seven to ten hours of post-processing work."

Peter is proud to be a member of the ArtLifting community and believes wholly in its mission. Peter is also an active member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Each month you can find him in San Francisco serving as a co-moderator of the support group for adults with children and loved ones who suffer from mental illness. His lifelong battle with clinical depression has been helpful in counseling others who come to the group seeking answers to some of life's most tragic psychiatric disorders.

See Peter's work on ArtLifting >



Disconcerted Matter, Peter Perrino

About Susan Spangenberg

"The power of art and the connection with others it affords me is priceless."

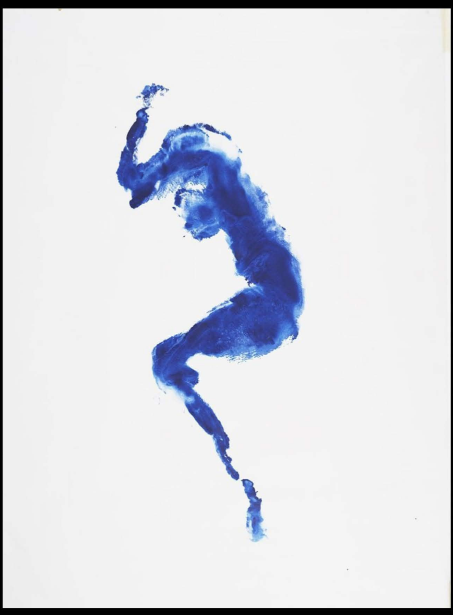
Susan Spangenberg is an American born, self-taught outsider artist. Raised in a severely dysfunctional family, which led to group homes and institutionalization during her teenage years, Susan cut her "Outsider Artist" teeth at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center's renowned 'Living Museum' art rehabilitation program. She was in the vanguard of the 'Girl, Interrupted' female asylum artist wave that has in the past 20 years become the new normal, and has maintained the raw essence of that genre imbued with a 21st-century sensibility.

Susan's work is autobiographical, commenting on her experience in the mental health system as well as touching upon other relevant social issues. She frequently incorporates text and writing in her art, including messages from her late twin brother Robert. There are also elements of spiritual symbols from her East Indian ancestry, samples of her psychotropic medication, and hand-sewn fabric throughout her work. She works in small and large-scale formats encompassing textile, mixed media, painting, and body prints.

Susan hopes to inspire generations of female artists to document their trauma, inequality, and identity and show how these realities have affected them – and to give female artists the freedom to speak out as she has.

As a self-taught artist, which is often linked to the term "outsider artist", Susan comments, "I've heard many different definitions over the years for the term 'outsider art'. Let's break the word outsider down to the simplest form and I'll keep this definition without changing it or suggesting anything better or different (I'm not one for labels). Ultimately all artists feel like "outsiders" by definition, in that I believe none of us feel like we fit into society. And non-artists also feel like they don't fit into society. Isn't this why we all love art? This tug of war within ourselves individually, that we do not feel we fit into society and yet we all try to fit in because we must live in some form of society is what makes us all outsiders and outsider artists. I am proud to be an Outsider Artist. I exhibited in the first European Outsider Arts Fair as a member artist with The Living Museum."

See Susan's work on ArtLifting >

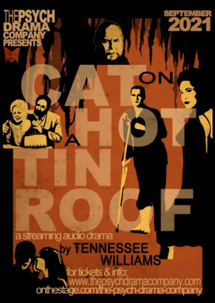


Blue Wall of Silence, Susan Spangenberg

About ArtLifting

ArtLifting is a social enterprise that champions artists impacted by homelessness or disabilities through the sale and celebration of their artwork. Representing 160 artists in 24 states, ArtLifting strives to serve as a platform for artists that have traditionally been underrepresented in the contemporary art market. Each artist has a unique perspective, style, and story based on the diversity of their lived experiences, artistic talents, and innovative processes. The powerful combination of their artwork and stories inspire communities and drive social change.

Visit ArtLifting.com >



THE PSYCH DRAMA COMPANY PRESENTS
SEPTEMBER 2021
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF
a streaming audio drama
by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
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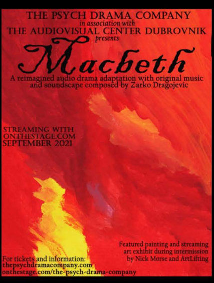

THE PSYCH DRAMA COMPANY
in association with
THE AUDIOVISUAL CENTER DUBROVNIK
presents
Macbeth
A reimagined audio drama adaptation with original music and soundscape composed by Zarko Dragojevic
STREAMING WITH ONTHESTAGE.COM SEPTEMBER 2021
Featured painting and streaming art exhibit during intermission by Nick Morse and ArtLifting
For tickets and information:
thepsychdramacompany.com
onthestage.com/the-psych-drama-company

New for our September 2021 audio dramas, to best support our patrons in different time zones across the world, are On Demand tickets which allow the flexibility of listening to these audio dramas anytime within a 24-hour period. Tickets are now on sale via OnTheStage.com, and profits from these ticket sales will go directly into the pockets of all artists involved in these productions. Individual tickets are $30.00 and Family tickets are $40.00. Press preview dates to be announced soon.

For additional information, please contact, Wendy Lippe Ph.D. at +1 617-275-9167 or by email at pr@psychdramaco.com or psychdramacompany@gmail.com.

The Psych Drama Company, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and fostering reflection and psychological mindedness through the performing arts. The Psych Drama Company provides education on a wide range of topics in psychology by combining immersive, experiential performances with post-show discussions led by mental health professionals.

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