

'Nature & Nurture' exhibit on view at Beauty Gallery

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Parrot, a 20 x 48 oil on canvas, by Georganna Lenssen is now on view at Beauty Gallery. Beauty invites the public to meet the artists featured in the "Nature & Nurture" exhibit at an opening reception Saturday, Sept. 6, from 5- 8 p.m. There is no charge to attend.

The paintings of Delaware Valley artists Leander Fontaine and Georganna Lenssen comprise Beauty Art Gallery's exhibit "Nature & Nurture" Sept. 4-27. Georganna Lenssen's works burst with color and texture, while Leander Fontaine's Sumi-e brush paintings in ink on paper feature dark strokes.

"Their works complement each other, and together tell a strong story about nature in art, whether a horse, a bird, a bull, or a bouquet of flowers," says Beauty's owner Paula Farley Jackson. Visit Beauty's website for additional information: www.beautyartgallery.net/.

Georganna Lenssen is a popular teacher at Wayne Art Center, teaching both direct & spontaneous painting and figure painting. Born in Korea, Lenssen has been exposed to Asian art all her life. Such exposure has imbued in her a reverence for nature and the vitality of its direct, spontaneous use of brush and ink. "In my paintings, I try to incorporate these qualities, focusing on gesture and movement as they express the essence and vitality of the subject," she says. Lenssen holds a certificate in painting from The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University. Her

work was featured recently in art exhibits at the Rosenfeld Gallery in Philadelphia and The Red Raven Art Company in Lancaster. Lenssen lives in Chester County with her husband, her German Shephard, Gringo, and six cats.

Leander Fontaine's work includes his drawings of creatures (horses and others) and his "Leanderthals", paintings with dark subjects on light-colored, structured ground. Color is used sparingly because Fontaine does not want color to distract from the essence of what he portrays, whether it is animals or fantasy compositions.

"I enjoy drawing in a very energetic and impulsive manner, which makes animals and fantasy creatures my favorite subjects, says Fontaine. "In these drawings, I use black

ink on drawing papers or rice paper. The animal drawings are not anatomy studies but show my impression (and expression) of the animals' overall gestalt or energy. For this reason, I keep them sketchy, abstract or distort them, and often let ink flow out of complete control - allowing the subject to develop some life on its own." Fontaine lives in Chester County with his wife, and an assortment of beloved animals, including Buddy, their horse.

Meet both artists at the opening reception Saturday, Sept. 6, from 5- 8 p.m. The exhibit and sale continues through Sept. 27 at the Gallery, 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square.

Beauty Art Gallery is at 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square.