

SPECIAL PREVIEW





HEROES, VILLAINS, MYTHS & LEGENDS

Rehs Contemporary Galleries opens it second exhibition featuring artists associated with Anthony Waichulis' Ani Art Academies. BY JOHN OTHERN

Rehs Contemporary Galleries Inc., in New York, will open its second exhibition featuring the instructors, current apprentices, alumni and associates of Ani Art Academies on March 15. Appropriately for the Ides of March, the exhibition is titled Heroes, Villains, Myths & Legends, a theme chosen by director Alyssa Rehs "to give each artist the freedom to express themselves through characters and/or individuals who inspire them.

"On view will be a variety of works celebrating The Lone Ranger, Wolverine, Atlas, Aphrodite, Mata Hari, Miss Havisham (from *Great Expectations*), Joan of Arc, Tron and many others," she notes.

The Ani Art Academies in Anguilla, the Dominican Republic, and Bear Creek Township, Pennsylvania, follow the training system developed by artist Anthony J. Waichulis promoting creative freedom through logic and discipline.

Among the artists exhibiting is Elena Green who traveled "from Australia to work with artist and Ani instructor Timothy Jahn at the Ani Art Academies Anguilla studio. It has been an intense and wonderful learning experience for me," she explains. "Working with the caliber of Ani artists has been insightful to see how an

Along with the flagship location in Pennsylvania, Anthony J. Waichulis' methods are taught at Ani Art Academies Dominicana in the Dominican Republic (pictured) and Ani Art Academies Anguilla on the Caribbean island.

Artist Anthony J. Waichulis and his wife Leah at the entrance to Ani Art Academies Waichulis in Bear Creek Township, Pennsylvania. Photo by Mark James.

"With mainstream media fixated on science fiction—heroes, villains, myths and legends have not only become an obsession, but part of our daily lives...It is a theme everyone can relate to—Heroes, Villains, Myths & Legends—is going to blow you away."

—Alyssa Rehs, director, Rehs Contemporary Galleries Inc.



Anthony J. Waichulis, Hi-Yo-Silver!, oil on panel, 7 x 5"

Amy Kelsey, You and who's Army Men, oil on panel, 8 x 10"

Stuart Dunkel, The Mediator, oil on panel, 8 x 20"

Elena Green, The Eye of the Day, charcoal and pastel on paper, 16 x 22"

Brandon D. Drake, Absolution, oil on panel, 20 x 23"

Lynn Garlick, The Sword & The Chalice, charcoal and pastel on paper, 15 x 8"









alternate approach to a particular challenge or task is adopted as well as providing me with the impetus to set high creative and professional goals. While the program is demanding and requires an extremely high level of discipline and commitment, the artist is rewarded ten-fold with fantastic technical skills. This frees the artist up to focus on one's own creative visions and

aesthetic. It's really exciting!"

Green's charcoal The Eye of the Day resulted from her curiosity about "the female archetype that has been depicted throughout history as the beguiler of men and possessor of supernatural abilities to overpower and seduce. My drawing portrays a contemporary version of the enigmatic femme fatale icon, The Mata Hari...



She embodied the abandonment of the conservative sexual and social standards of the time and replaced it with a more liberal and progressive one. My intention was to have the gaze of the subject arrest the viewer in a way suggesting an intimate dialogue between them.

"The greatest challenge I encountered," she continues, "was achieving the luminosity of each individual pearl on the embroidered necklace. At Jahn's suggestion, I sharpened the chalk pencil to a point and applied an impasto highlight in 'one shot' resulting in the shine that I was after."

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When: March 15-April 11, 2014 Where: Rehs Contemporary Galleries Inc., 5 E. 57th Street, New York, NY 10022 Information: (212) 355-5710, www.rehscgi.com