Inside Art

Music Influences the Visual Arts

Music and the visual arts have long been intertwined. Artists Jackson Pollock and Robert Rauschenberg were directly inspired by the music they listened to in their studios, while musicians such as Beethoven and Chopin collaborated with iconic visual artists. Today, a new wave of art for the covers of albums.

Music is also recognized as one of the best ways to cultivate joy in our daily lives. The Susquehanna Art Museum was inspired by discovering how artists find joy at the intersection of music and art, and so their newest exhibit, "Creating Joy: Art Inspired by Music" was born. It provides unique perspectives on the joyful relationship between music and art, both visually and conceptually by 34 artists.

Jazz, one of the America’s foremost innovations to the 20th century, is heavily featured as an inspiration. Jazz is both a rhythm and improvisational structure often appearing in visual art. Susana Baldwin’s “Jazz at the Park” is a collection of paintings full of unexpected twists and turns, drawing its spirit and energy from the lively performances that she has witnessed in parks throughout New York City. The vivid hues are inspired by the diversity of jazz over the urban environment.

Another bold experiment in color is Lake Newton’s archival pigment print, “Abstractions.” The titling of this work is inspired by the layered appreciation of the shapes resembling neon lights glowing against the darkness. The pulsing image is inspired by the undulations of the instruments in its inspiration, translating the aural into the visual.

Miles Davis was a towering figure in the history of Jazz and his “Kind of Blue” was one of the genre’s most influential and top-selling recordings. Here, Miles Davis influenced another artist. Miles Davis’ Antibes artwork is a homage by boogie woogie and jazz music.

Classical pianist and industrial engineer, Greta Boettel used her training in both fields and took a unique approach to creating two pieces in the exhibition of "Crep." "I Gave My Love a Cherry" were constructed by assigning colors and shapes to the notes of the songs named in the titles. The results yield intersecting circles and squares that overlay another culture at the site.

Dan Peterson's contributions are also reminiscent of Pop Art. His "Free Flow" and "Jazz Yet Funky" digital designs are contemporary and multidimensional creations that call to mind the psyche and the powerful colors and shapes of 1960’s album covers and posters as well as the bold graphics of 1980’s Post artist Kenny Scharf. People of a certain age will certainly connect with Michael Bricker’s "Anatomy of a Mixtape." His mixed media work centers around the creation of a music mixtape with its associated scribbled notes and meaningful relationships between songs. Tapes were created to commemorate life’s milestones and to enhance the understanding of the unspoken cassette freely floats in the air, giving the piece a unique three dimensional aspect.

Erik Diaz’s "Mexico Contemporaneo" was inspired by the music of Los Tigres Del Norte, a Latin band who recorded songs about social issues in contemporary Mexico. He has crafted stoneware platters which depict imagery illustrating those issues. Using a traditional craftsmanship to tell the story of the oppressed and struggling, much in the same way music can, once again draws the parallel between the visual and musical arts.

As an added bonus to the exhibit, visitors are encouraged to bring their personal devices to enjoy a special playlist that accompanies the exhibition. The perfect complement to create an immersive experience in the gallery.

"Creating Joy" reminds us that the visual and audio can inspire and evoke a spectrum of emotion. While "Joy" may be the focus, the exhibit will also entertain, educate, inform and most importantly, remind us of the integral role all of the arts play in our lives.

"Creating Joy: Art Inspired by Music" is now on view in the Leh Gallery. The museum is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. The Susquehanna Art Museum is located at 1401 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA. For more information on the exhibit, the museum visit Susquehannaartmuseum.org.

Joseph George holds a degree in history and art as a history from Dickinson College. He and his wife, Barrie Ann have spent over 30 years together traveling and visiting art galleries locally and throughout the world. They have been writing about the local art scene for several years. Their tastes range from fine art to street art.

CALENDER

Dillsburg Library Happenings

SummerQuest. SummerQuest comes to an end this month. August 16 is the last day to log minutes for the 100 minute challenge.

Adult Summer Reading. There is still time to earn prizes during this month’s Adult Summer Reading program. Aug. 17 is the final day to submit a Bingo sheet. The drawing for the Book Bingo prize winner is Aug. 19.

Go York! This popular hiking program started July 1. There is still plenty of time to enjoy all the outdoor venues. Participants have to be registered for SummerQuest via Bravebook. There are booklets available for pickup.

Online Book Discussion. Join the group for a Zoom discussion of “Prodigal Summer” by Barbara Kingsolver. "Prodigal Summer" is Kingsolver’s fifth novel, published in 2000. It weaves together three stories of human experience within a larger tapestry of lives amid the mountains and farms of southern Appalachia. Over the course of one summer, this novel’s intriguing protagonists face disparate predicaments but find connections to one another and to the flora and fauna with which they inevitably share a place. Please RSVP for a Zoom link.

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