

August 5 - October 4, 2024

INTO THE  
*Spines &*  
ON THE  
*Stacks*



Council on  
the Arts



**A special exhibition created by the Patchogue Arts Council & Patchogue-Medford Library travels to the Sachem Public Library!**

*Into the Spines and on the Stacks* is a selection of works curated from an Island wide call and invitation to artists. PAC • MoCA L.I. encouraged artists to respond to works of literature and consider creating miniature installations. *Into the Spines and on the Stacks* is an intimate exploration of books as physical objects. Each piece is a miniature installation within the confines of a book jacket. The viewer must peer into the spine to see the installation. This is the first PAC • MoCA L.I. exhibition to travel!



Artists in *Into the Spines*: John Cino, Andrea Cote, Cui Fei, Kathryn Ko, Maria Macedonio, Loretta Oberheim, Eileen Palmer, Seema Pandya, Chris Vivas, Annemarie Waugh, Amanda Reilly and Jayne Dion. For more on the artists scan the QR code.

## ON DISPLAY | *Making Waves, 2023*

### Artwork by Seema Lisa Pandya

The title of the piece is “Making Waves” and is based on fractal mushroom forms I use in a majority of my work and patterns observed in my study of “cymatics”, a study of the visual form of sound in relation to vibration and amplitude through a medium.

## 597.33 | *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

### Artwork by Eileen Palmer

The novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt is about an older widowed woman who works at a local aquarium. She develops a relationship with an octopus named Marcellus who has a penchant for escaping from his tank and collecting various treasures. The book is about grief, friendship, and freedom. Loved the book and working on this project.

## 708.147 | *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

by E. L. Konigsburg

### Artwork by Andrea Cote

I remember my mother reading *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* to my sister and I when we were young. The story of two children who run away to live at The Metropolitan Museum of Art sparked our imagination - what child doesn't dream of escaping the banality of their home lives and what better place to live than the MET? I still have vivid memories of the illustrations and many details of the book, from bathing in the fountain and gathering tossed coins, to sleeping in and hiding under the grand canopied bed.

But it's the mystery at the core of the book that gives this book nook its name - “Shadow of an Angel.” Claudia's longing for adventure and the journey to herself along the way mirrored my own experience of looking to figures in art that represented my journey as an artist. In my case, I remember looking to Degas' bronze statue of the Young Dancer, in the same way the marble Angel spoke to Claudia.

My mother, Sandi-Jo Gordon, inspired a lifelong love of books and museums and created book artworks herself. This piece is dedicated to her memory.

## 759.13 | *Ninth Street Women- Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art* by Mary Gabriel

### Artwork by Maria Macedonio

Constructing a sculpture in book form is both limiting and liberating. The confines of the space forces one to hone in on key points from countless possibilities of subject matter from hundreds of pages of material.

Mary Gabriel's, *Ninth Street Women- Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art*, follows the journey of 20th century painters. The works, both text and sculpture, delve into the trials and tribulations of these female painters during turbulent social times. The stacked ketchup packets symbolize the perseverance of the New York School painters. Gabriel tells stories of artists preparing ketchup and water to make tomato soup as they did not have the financial means to shop for food. The painters' stick-to-itiveness, integrity, and passion for their work created one of America's first art movements and established New York as the capital of the art world.

## 612.8 | *Saturday* by Ian McEwan

### Artwork by Dr. Kathryn Ko

Dr. Ko, a neurosurgeon, is reading Ian McEwan's novel *Saturday*. The protagonist, a neurosurgeon, faces an emergency brain surgery. As the story unfolds, Dr. Ko is abruptly summoned for an actual emergency procedure.

Both the fictional and real-life surgeries are successful, providing a surreal synchronicity to her day, Saturday, July 1, 2006. July 1 is both the commencement and culmination of medical training cycles. It's a significant date that requires reflection on one's professional journey.

No writer can truly articulate the internal thoughts of those who operate on the human brain. The sliding scale between success and failure is less than millimeters, something a neurosurgeon must live with. To do our very best and hope that our best that day is enough.

For a short video on July 1 | [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYJKVAtpfP8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYJKVAtpfP8)

## 576.84 | *Wild Mind, Wild Earth: Our Place in the Sixth*

by David Hilton

### Artwork by Cui Fei

This work is inspired by my evening walks along the Hudson River Park. I am often captivated by the wooden pilings of the ruined piers in the river. When it's foggy, the sky and water merge together, creating a gray and indeterminate space punctuated by dark, twisted, and tilting pilings. Seen in this atmosphere, the pilings take on an elegiac presence. These last remnants of a bygone industrial age are gradually giving way to natural decay, reminding us that we are but temporary inhabitants of this planet.

## 111 | *Being and Nothingness* by Sartre

### Artwork by Chris Vivas

The book chosen, *Being and Nothingness*, by Sartre relates to the existential concepts within my art, dealing with the precarious nature of existence and meaning. Existential writers have had a tremendous influence on my artistic philosophies over the years working with ceramic and porcelain as a metaphor for the strengths and weaknesses in life.

## B FELT | *Soundings* by Hali Felt

### Shoal Crevasse, 2023 Artwork by Loretta Oberheim

"Shoal Crevasse" pays homage to the ocean floor and the groundbreaking exploration of Marie Tharp, which is the focus of the book *Soundings: The Story of the Remarkable Woman Who Mapped the Ocean Floor* by Hali Felt.

Before Marie Tharp, the ocean floor was a complete mystery. Her cutting-edge research in the 1950s allowed scientists to understand Earth's evolution. Marie transformed data, creating beautiful ocean floor maps, as well as pushing the envelope to explain the theory of the Continental Drift. She did this during a time when educated women were scarce, and those who were educated were forced into a secretary position. She pushed against the social norms of the time, stayed confident in herself, and in the end, prevailed. Marie Tharp's tenacity and confidence in herself/work is something every woman, no matter scientific or artistic, should strive towards in their lifetime.

## 973.7115 | *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

### Artwork by Annemarie Waugh

The book I have chosen is *The Underground Railroad*, a historical fiction novel by Colson Whitehead. The novel tells the story of Cora, a slave in the South during the 19th century, who makes a bid for freedom from her Georgia plantation by following the Underground Railroad, which the novel depicts as a rail transport system with safe houses and secret routes. I loved this novel and I think it would make a great book nook. I would depict Cora, running underground with railroad tracks and a tunnel into darkness and a visible other world for her escape and a group of slave catchers visible in the distance.

## 551.46 | *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne

### Artwork by Jayne Dion

When thinking of recreating a scene from a book, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne immediately came to mind. Having read this book as a teenager and again several times as an adult, the mastery of words Verne uses to describe the drawing room of the Nautilus are an endless inspiration for my work. "It was a vast, four-sided room with canted corners... A luminous ceiling, decorated with light arabesques, shed a soft clear light over all the marvels accumulated... for it was in fact a museum, in which intelligent and prodigal hand had gathered all the treasures of nature and art, with the artistic confusion which distinguishes a painter's studio." A marvel indeed to behold with eyes wide open when I saw the movie adaptation from 1954 directed by Richard Fleischer for the first time.

I used foam clay and faux painted the outside of the box to achieve the leather feel of the book cover and oil-based gold paint for the title applied by fine art brush. Foam clay again for the red chairs and the tentacles of the infamous giant squid attacking the Nautilus. Thin sheets of foam for the walls and bookcase and larger thickness of foam sheets for the door. I hand painted miniature doll house furniture and other doll house decor to fit in with the theme of the room.

## 200 | *Labryinths* by Jorge Luis Borges

### Artwork by John Cino

*Labyrinth* is a short story collection by Jorge Luis Borges. It has been recounted that he said why would I say in a novel what I could write in a short story. Hence fiction is limited to short stories, very dense short stories compiled into just a few collections. Many of his stories deal with concepts of infinity, infinite regress, and infinite possibilities and finding infinity in a "Blake-ian" grain of sand. It would be unfair to leave out other influences, Yayoi Kusama's Infinity Rooms and the geometric design of De Stijl artists including Piet Mondrian which went into the creation of this piece.

## 823.7 | *Alice In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

### Artwork by Amanda Reilly

I chose the book *Alice In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll for this particular project because the surreal imagery of Lewis Carroll's work has always been a favorite of mine. All throughout my career I've been inspired by the fantastical surrealist monsters and characters of that story. I also love seeing how different visual artists of vastly different styles interpret his writing in their artworks.