

Exposed. Outdoor Sculpture in Stowe, Vermont

Helen Day Art Center

Presented by Petra and Stephen Levin

Curated by Rachel Moore

July 12th 2014-October 15th 2014

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Driving down Stowe's Main Street Claire Ashley's *limppunklovrrjunk* (18'x22'x12', spray paint, PVC coated canvas tarpaulin, fan, 2013) fairly leaps off the front of the Helen Day Art Center eliciting a giggle and a double-take. It is the hook, the calling card to engage an interested passerby to come in, grab a map, and find out what is happening in the normally tranquil village of Stowe, Vermont.

I was fortunate to attend the opening event on a perfect summer afternoon. The air was rich with eager anticipation as the large crowd filled the upstairs gallery, drinking wine and noshing on cheese & crackers. The festivities were about to begin when Executive Director Nathan Suter handed out individually packaged, bright red sunglasses, with *Exposed.*, the title of this town wide sculpture show, printed on the side. We were instructed to head outdoors by curator Rachel Moore who proceeded to lead the diverse crowd through a guided tour of each of the 24 works by 17 artists and 3 writers artfully sited throughout the town.

This is the 23rd year of *Exposed.* Clearly the curator, jurors; Samantha Cataldo Koch Curatorial Fellow at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln MA, DJ Hellerman Curator at Burlington City Arts, Amy Rahn Independent Curator and Arts Writer, along with a supportive staff, cooperative town officials and volunteers have perfected this event. Many of the artists, representing a wide range of methods, materials and stylistic approaches, accompanied the tour, commenting on their own work. As if this wasn't enough food for thought we were also treated to a scrumptious progressive dinner provided by local eateries at various points along the way.

There was so much to like it is difficult to pull out a few examples. The placement of each piece was so intentional, so carefully considered drawing attention to its surroundings as well as to itself. The works enhanced aspects of the town, like Monica Herrera's *Cascabels* that delightfully resonated as we walked across the first bridge on the recreation path, or John Matusz's *Commemorative Profile*, bringing hints of Easter Island to Main Street, or *Reliquary* by Jodi Colella that rewarded us when we looked up.

A beautiful full color catalogue accompanies this highly recommended show.

—Cynthia L. Close