



**Berta Walker**  
**GALLERY**

208 Bradford Street Provincetown, MA 02657 (East end of Town near Howland Street, Ample Parking)  
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Now in its 24th season, the Berta Walker Gallery is often referred to "as the other art museum in Provincetown." Described in the *Cape Cod Times* by Andre Van der Wende as "A discerning and exciting curator," Walker presents vibrant shows reflecting back through Provincetown's 100-year-old artistic history from the paintings of Charles Hawthorne and Hans Hofmann, through annual exhibitions of modern masters and mid-career artists. "We focus on the History of American Art as exemplified by the creative artists throughout Provincetown's over 100-year-old history as an art colony, the oldest, the largest and the most renowned in the United States." This year will be no exception. Launching the season is a powerhouse exhibition of constructions and collages by three Master Provincetown artists.

May 24 -- June 16, 2013

Reception to meet the artists: Friday, May 24, 7 - 9 pm

*Recovered Poetry: Three Masters of Construction and Collage*  
VARUJAN BOGHOSIAN, EDWARD GIOBBI, ELSPETH HALVORSEN

This exhibition pays tribute to the unique art of collage and construction practiced by three masters who, for most of their over-eighty years of making art, have created international reputations for their unusual and transcendent art. Inspiration emerged for this exhibition when Elspeth Halvorsen was invited to create a huge one-person exhibition at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, May 24 to July 7, and Varujan Boghosian was asked to curate the very beautiful, impressive and sensitive result. Additionally, Edward Giobbi, who joined the Berta Walker Gallery two years ago, is a long-time friend and associate of Halvorsen's and Boghosian's, also working in this unusual method. Thus, this one-of-a-kind exhibition came into being.

(see individual press releases on the following pages)

# Elspeth Halvorsen

"Over the years," says Berta Walker, "I've observed that Elspeth Halvorsen works in two distinct yet related methods: One, large-scale works focused on simplicity and abstraction --described by Varujan Boghosian in the show he's curating at PAAM as 'dynamic organizations of simple forms in space'-- and the other, a more intimate expression of Halvorsen's life and observations of the world around her in which she incorporates objects such as dried horseshoe crabs, found turtle shells, skates, tiny fish, dolls, ladders, and often, she paints landscape backgrounds, These are the more personal, autobiographical, overtly compassionate works that will be on view at the Berta Walker Gallery." Viewing any of Elspeth Halvorsen's box constructions is a lot like a walk in the moonlight. What we know - or think-to be true in the hard brightness of daytime reality dissolves into an amorphous space of multiple possibilities/ perspectives in the tradition of Joseph Cornell. A container becomes the stage. As art critic Cate McQuaid wrote in *The Boston Globe*: "When Halvorsen constructs boxes from wood and glass, they contain galactic meditations. She balances expansion and containment, liberty and boundaries." A fantastical idealist, Halvorsen's encased works speak to the mysteries of the universe. Found objects are alchemized into a visual Utopia.

Writing about Halvorsen's work in the catalog for her upcoming exhibition at PAAM, Curator Varujan Boghosian states: "Elspeth Halvorsen's dynamic constructions call to mind Myron Stout's totemic works, or Naum Gabo's constructions. If anyone came close to god-like work, it was Gabo's simple purity that enriched complicated constructions. This is the same feeling one has while viewing Halvorsen's work."

Writing on Elspeth Halvorsen for both *Art New England* and *Provincetown Arts*, Susan Rand Brown has said: "Often contemporary in narrative content - she does not shy away from social and political issues - ecological disaster, war and disruption - Halvorsen does not work in the ironic mode. Her best tone is magisterial, finding the cosmic in nature's cycle of creation, decay and renewal....Through the two Provincetown shows at PAAM and the Berta Walker Gallery, we can absorb the fullness of Elspeth Halvorsen's highly sophisticated yet intensely personal vision. They're not to be missed!"



Elspeth Halvorsen, Heaven, 2007, box construction, 16 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 7 1/2"



Elspeth Halvorsen, Homage to Trayvon, 1976 - 2012, box construction, 11" x 11"

Her formal education began with the New School for social research, New York (1948/1951); Arts Student League, New York (1948/1952); Academie de la Grande Chaumiere, Paris, France (1952) Purdue University (1969/1971). Awards include The Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, Women's Art Registry and Arts Student League. Halvorsen has had one person and group exhibitions throughout the US and Europe since 1953, including the Berta Walker Gallery, Provincetown; the City Center Gallery, New York City and Palazzo Casali, Cortona, Italy. Recently, she was included in the major collage exhibition at New York's prestigious Hollis Taggart Gallery.

Halvorsen was highly instrumental in organizing the much-heralded cooperative *Rising Tide Gallery*, and is not only an especially talented sculptor, but is the wife and mother of the unique Vevers family of artists which includes her husband, painter Tony Vevers (1926-2008) and daughters, artist Tabitha Vevers and filmmaker Stephanie Vevers.

Halvorsen has worked and lived in Provincetown for more than 50 years when early on, the Vevers had the opportunity to purchase Mark Rothko's home and studio which continues in the same tradition with the Vevers.

## Varujan Boghosian

Working only with found materials, Varujan Boghosian creates constructions and collages through the use of old and discarded objects and paper. In the resulting elegant works, we find that the old and ordinary has been endowed with wonder and mystery, wit and pathos. Boghosian uses his carefully culled raw materials to create works of pure and lyric visual poetry, "Haiku in found objects," says Berta Walker. Though in a different medium, they remind one of the still life paintings of Morandi or the exquisite quiet aesthetic of Asian vessels. The artist is inspired by a love for the past -- particularly a fascination with classical myths, which he retells through the materials of American life with deceptively simple artistry. Boghosian's poetic constructions are mythic journeys into the human experiences of longing, desire and redemption. Wrote Chris Busa, in *Provincetown Arts*, "Boghosian wants to take us to our limits of knowledge, where we must decide where explanation fails and when mystery manifests itself."

"Varujan Boghosian's work is inspired by the past, by an appreciation of the lives and legacy of myth, of people and objects that have gone before, and a love of images and iconography. He is a sculptor, assembler, constructionist, beachcomber, scavenger, collector, historian, and conservator, and gathers the relics of our common experience, transforming them into poetic tributes, homages to the universal limitless creative spirit." Gillian Drake, *Cape Arts Magazine*, 2009

And Chris McCarthy, Director of PAAM, wrote for Boghosian's exhibition in 2009, "Boghosian continues to challenge the viewer with the fundamental riddle of object and meaning inherent in assemblage. By transforming collections of everyday objects into meaningful works of art, Boghosian explores the nature of identity."

Boghosian was born in New Britain, Connecticut in 1926. His father emigrated from Armenia and was a cobbler, before going to work in the Stanley tool works. After serving in the Navy during WWII, Boghosian attended Vesper George School of Art in Boston where he met Edward Giobbi. In 1953 he received a Fullbright Grant and went to Italy to study. When he returned, he became a student of Joseph Albers at Yale School of Art and Architecture.

Boghosian is a highly-awarded artist who has been presented in Museums across the country and is in numerous public collections. He is a phenomenal teacher, holding positions in Yale, Brown, and many others and, since 1968, at Dartmouth, where he recently retired.

And, anyone lucky enough to meet Varujan Boghosian in the Berta Walker Gallery during the summer, usually leaves with a new understanding about some aspect of art and/or literature and always wearing a newly-Boghosianed



Varujan Boghosian, *From a Chinese Proverb*, 1999, construction, 28 1/2 x 22 x 4"



Varujan Boghosian, *Pinocchio*, 2013, collage, 17 x 21" framed

smile.

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## Edward Giobbi

This exhibition includes a selection of recent and early constructions as well as a group of small gouaches. Throughout, the viewer discovers Giobbi's deft hand for drawing, wry humor in his juxtapositions and a quiet bravado. Wrote Stanley Kunitz in the introduction for the book *Edward Giobbi, Representative Works, 1953-1993*: Edward Giobbi seems to be driven to make something passionate and whole out of broken forms."

And architect Edward Larrabee Barnes wrote in the same book: "Edward Giobbi's work is jarring, arresting, sometimes harsh, never simply decorative. The classic balance, the symmetry, combined with glittering hard-edge technique gives the work a kind of architectural stability. It makes one curious to see what Giobbi, with his historical perspective, his skills and his insights would do with a full-scale commission for a chapel or a tomb."

Literature, history and mythology have always been sources for Giobbi's images. So when a giant oak tree destroyed a lifetime of work during Hurricane Irene, Giobbi recovered fragments of the ruined art, and transformed his past into the present, creating a whole new collage series. "I feel these 'resurrected collages' are almost like resurrected frescoes from the Renaissance", says Walker. "The surfaces are highly textural, broken and chipped, lovingly recaptured and preserved." The collages reflect the influences Giobbi has incorporated throughout his life: the ancient feelings of the Etruscans and Romans, as well as painters, sculptors and architects of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Giobbi also draws on the influences of Italian Futurism and metaphysical painting including Severini, de Chirico, Morandi, Balla. Writes Susan Edwards, Executive Director of the Katonah Museum of Art for her Edward Giobbi exhibit: "Giobbi is an artist with strong and well-informed opinions...(He is) a polyglot, comfortable reading, speaking, or arguing the fine points



Ed Giobbi, Untitled, 1975,  
mixed media on cardboard on linen, 28 1/2 X 33"

of literature, music, cuisine, and art in either English or Italian." Ed Giobbi has travelled intellectually and physically between Europe and America all his life. As a first generation Italian, Giobbi became deeply influenced by the stories he heard about artists of the Italian Renaissance and the magic and mathematics of their paintings and buildings fascinated him, and he knew from childhood that he would be an artist. The perceptual mysteries of depicting "real" three-dimensional space on a two dimensional surface ... "can seem like a conjurer's trick. This perceptual mystery attracted Giobbi's attention at a young age, just as the inventions of the Italian Futurists, with their appreciation of smells, machines, and syncopation, would fire his imagination several decades later." Mimi Thompson, Katonah Museum of Art, "Edward Giobbi", 2003.

Born in Waterbury, CT in 1926 to a family of Italian Immigrants, Giobbi now resides in Katonah, NY. Giobbi first came to Provincetown with his friend, fellow art student Varujan Boghosian in 1946. He raised his family here summers through 1980. Following his service in the US Army during World War II, he studied art formally at: Whitney School of Art, NYC (1946); Vesper George School of Arts, Boston (1946/1950); Cape Cod School of Art, Provincetown, MA (1946/1950); The Arts Student League, NYC (1950/55); Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Florence, Italy (1951/1954) Ford Foundation Grant (1965); Guggenheim Fellowship (1972/1973) and an Artist in Residence at Dartmouth College (1972). Giobbi is known world-wide not only for his art, but also as a master chef and cookbook author.



Ed Giobbi, Up Yours, Irene, #4, 1956, 1962 & 2012,  
oil on linen, 65 x 44"

# Next Exhibitions

## June 21 - July 7, 2013

- **Sky Power: Landscape Spirit** Power blends her Native American heritage with the sensitivity of an artist bathed in Cape Light, using a vibrant palette of color to create transcendent landscapes
- **On The Road: Cape Masters Travel (Chaffee, Hawthorne, Knaths, Lazzell, Moffett, Resika, Weinrich)** A variety of fascinating works by Provincetown Masters working in geographies we are not used to seeing in their art such as Lazzell in St. Petersburg, FL; Moffett in his Native farmlands; Resika in France & Mexico; Hawthorne in France & Texas; Chaffee in Florida & France.
- **Romolo Del Del: "Maquettes"** Small bronze sculpture for major outdoor Commissions

### SPECIAL EVENT

Friday June 28, 7 to 9pm

Unveiling of Romolo Del Deo's Maquette

"Provincetown's Fishermen's Memorial Sculpture"

to be sited on the waterfront in Provincetown

 <h2>Berta Walker GALLERY</h2> <p><b>GALLERY HOURS:</b> Through June: Daily, 12-4, closed Tuesdays July 1 - September 16, Daily, 11-6 always by appointment and by chance</p> <p>208 Bradford Street Provincetown, MA 02657 East end of Town near Howland Street, <b>AMPLE PARKING</b></p> <p>508-487-6411 <a href="http://www.BertaWalkerGallery.com">www.BertaWalkerGallery.com</a></p> <p>For more information: Sky Power, Managing Director</p>	<h3>Nurture Your Spirit visit Berta Walker Gallery</h3> <p>The Berta Walker Gallery has been highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Provincetown's 100-year old art colony for 24 years, and is known for showing a wide variety of important Provincetown-affiliated art and artists.</p> <p><b>REPRESENTING:</b> Varujan Boghosian, Romolo Del Deo, Salvatore Del Deo, Ed Giobbi, Elspeth Halvorsen, Robert Henry, Brenda Horowitz, Penelope Jencks, Judyth Katz, John Kearney, Anne MacAdam, Danielle Mailer, Erna Partoll, Sky Power, Paul Resika, Selina Trieff, Peter Watts, Murray Zimiles</p> <p><b>ESTATE REPRESENTATION:</b> Gilbert Franklin, Dimitri Hadzi, Herman Maril, Nancy Whorf</p> <p><b>PROVINCETOWN MASTERS:</b> Oliver Chaffee, Marsden Hartley, Charles W. Hawthorne, Hans Hofmann, Karl Knaths, Blanche Lazzell, Loren Maclver, Ross Moffett, Agnes Weinrich</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Compassion</p>
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