

Berta Walker Gallery - Provincetown

Four One Person Shows

JOSEPH DIGGS -- HERMAN MARIL JIM PETERS -- SKY POWER

Opening Friday, August 31, 6 to 8pm

On view August 31 to September 23



Joseph Diggs, Spring Has Sprung, 2015, oil on canvas, 45 x 55"

JOSEPH DIGGS paintings

JOSEPH DIGGS' recent paintings are beautiful abstracts, deep with emotion and alive with enthusiasm they revel in color and expressive paint, revealing a new-found freedom. Diggs credits and thanks the Vermont Studio Center, which offered him a month-long Fellowship this past winter, for helping him open to a new chapter in his painting career.

Berta Walker said: "I continue to be moved by Joe's open, ongoing passion, whether it be expressed in the sensitive,

intriguing pattern paintings made in homage to his grandmother, a seamstress, 'who was surrounded by multi-colored fabric whenever I saw her', said Joe with a grin, or his response to his surroundings of land and sea, or his sense of lyric musicality, evolving from his love of music, particularly jazz." Here, he once told me with humor, "while I'm not a musician, I am somewhat of a secret entertainer, especially as emcee in the jazz club, 'Joe's Twin Villa', I owned and ran originally started by my Grandfather in 1935."

Berta Walker Gallery premiered Joe Diggs in Provincetown last summer and we're delighted to have the opportunity to present his recent paintings, which expand on his abstract format. The Gallery has followed his work in different exhibitions over the years and included him in a couple of group exhibitions. However, since it is the gallery's policy of presenting Provincetown art colony artists from the early 1900s to the present, Joe lived and worked too far Up-Cape. But in 2015, Joe Diggs became affiliated with the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown through its MFA graduate program, and my opportunity had arrived!" exclaims gallery owner Walker. "When I was finally able to visit his studio in Osterville two winters ago, I immediately connected to his paintings. They are unique and totally his own, revealing vulnerability and truth, through luscious movement of the paint."

"Painting has always been my platform, my voice. To me, painting is magic. Images appear out of nothing, blobs of color transform themselves to a new meaning. Creating art gives me the opportunity to share my experiences. I identify with the power of the image and re-present it to my audience. I want my work to invoke thoughts and emotions that will take the viewer on a visual journey."

"Joe is unafraid to experiment," notes Grace Hopkins, artist and Director of the Berta Walker Gallery.

"His paintings are abstractions from observation with an evocation of landscape or figure. He was a flight attendant for many years and thus his observations of the earth from an airplane lend a feeling of the infrastructure of landscape from above, inspiring a freedom to create random intervals and odd patterns. Joe's overall message expresses a personal rhythm and intuition, derived from his love of music, and the pure joy of pushing and pulling paint."

Born in France and traveling the world with his Military family, Joseph Diggs settled in Osterville, MA, as a youth. Here, his family ran "Joe's Twin Villa", a bar and blues place. He received his BFA in 1984 at Southwestern University in North Dartmouth, MA, and continued to paint, while flying around the world, owning and running a jazz bar, and managing properties; and almost 30 years later, in 2015, he completed his MFA at Massachusetts College of Art and Design/Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown. One-person exhibitions include, in 2014, the Fine Arts Work Center; in 2015, Provincetown Art Association and Museum Curated by Jim Peters. Additional exhibitions include The Anaheim Gallery at Massachusetts College of Art and design, curated by George Creamer, the Cape Museum of Fine Arts, Cotuit Center for the Arts, and The Guyer Barn, Hyannis, MA. Joseph Diggs is currently an art instructor for the Cotuit Center for the Arts.



Joseph Diggs, Birthday Gift, mixed media on panel, 48 x 24"

HERMAN MARIL

(1908 - 1986)

paintings & hand-colored prints

Herman Maril (1908-1986), a native of Baltimore, MD, is a nationally known artist who painted seascapes, interiors, and landscapes in a pure, lyrical, and profound style. He came to Provincetown in the 1930's where he was discovered by the collector Duncan Phillips and is now represented in the Phillips collection with over a dozen paintings. In 1948, he and his wife Esta, moved to Provincetown in the summers where he maintained his studio until his death in 1986.



Herman Maril, Cape View #4, working proof, gouche over monoprint, 17 x 20"

Berta Walker Gallery is pleased to feature an unusual group of recently discovered "working proofs" Herman Maril made in preparation for his unique "Serigraphs by the Sea" series, created over a five-year period from 1975-1980. "These are beautifully conceived and organized understatements of nature," notes Howard Wooden, Director, Wichita Art Museum, for the Museum's 1984 exhibition. "Each picture is a unique experience producing yet another mood of water." Only seven monoprints exist in this unique collection, which will be accompanied by three Maril paintings recently consigned to the Gallery.

Maril's paintings -- landscapes, seascapes, interiors --are lyrical and spacious, filled with light and a serenity seen in everyday environments. His simplified subjects and abstracted environments result in visual elegance. His art emphasizes clarity and simplicity, achieved through broad, flat color masses in a style related to Cubism. "Maril's rather quiet, yet richly lyrical color. and his always well-composed compositions have great lasting quality" said the late Adelyn Breeskin, former Director of the Baltimore Museum.



Herman Maril, Cape View #1, working proof, gouache over monoprint, 14 x 18"

Both Maryland and Provincetown claim Herman Maril as their own. Maryland touts him as the "widely recognized, quintessential Maryland painter," while Provincetown claims Maril as "an extraordinary American Modernist who lived and painted in Provincetown for forty years." (Chris McCarthy, Director, Provincetown Art Museum)

"Maril represents the innovative spirit of an American painter who...pounded out an American vision inspired by the uniqueness of this culture, wrote Lou Zona, Director of the Butler Institute of American Art. Continuing, he said, "...Our admiration for the talent of Herman Maril could not be

greater, for in him we see the very best America has to offer."

Since 1930, Maril's work has been featured in over 60 solo exhibitions at galleries and museums around the country. A major exhibition for Herman Maril is on view August 17 - October 28, 2018 at the Cahoon Museum of American Art in Cotuit, MA. In 1983, University of Maryland University College (UMUC) established a permanent Herman Maril Gallery to showcase his works. In 2007 the student gallery at University of Maryland at College Park, where he taught for three decades, was named after him. In 2014, in conjunction with a traveling exhibition, the University of Maryland published a book on Maril written by Dr. Ann Wagner, a former Smithsonian American Art Museum curator and currently curator of prints and drawings at the Arkansas Art Center.

JIM PETERS constructions

An exhibition by Jim Peters, known primarily for his large-scale paintings described by Cate McQuaid in the Boston Globe as "intimate and operatic," will introduce a selection of new wall constructions, created through his personal iconography of architecture, abstract elements and mixed medias.

Talking about his Constructions, Peters says: "I have always been interested in the combination of different materials in



Jim Peters, The Artist, 2017, mixed media, 12 x 17 x 12"

both my painting and sculptural work. I really love to play with that edge between 2D illusion and 3D reality, where on viewing, one is uncertain about the actual surface. This also holds for the introduction of photos into the pieces - to foster that ambiguity. The constructions, for me, are a stage, like the sets for the Russian Constructivist's theater performances in the early 20th century. Exploring the three dimensional world, for example making/working the wax figures and wood structures, is often a wonderful contradiction to the concerns of two dimensional painting. The ideal for me is the attempt to integrate both processes into these works or 'Constructions'." It's fascinating to delve into Peters' paintings and constructions. He incorporates found objects, metal, wire, wood, photographs often painting over them and leaving a sensual texture juxtaposed against another constructed mood.

Andre Van Der Wende noted in the Cape Cod Times: "With the construction pieces, it's as though Peters' figures have stepped out of his paintings and onto drop platforms, impromptu stages for various encounters and private interludes...charged with a theatrical darkness and tender sexuality, they're often otherworldly; mysterious epiphanies between fantasy and masked reality." "And something new is emerging in this recent work," notes Berta Walker, "we are sometimes invited to experience not only the private rooms, but now, the outdoors, the library, sailing on the Bay."



Jim Peters, Close Hauled, 2018, mixed media,
30 x 38" x 3 1/2"

Jim Peters has a fascinating background. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, majoring in Atomic Physics, earned an MS in Nuclear Engineering from MIT, and entered the Navy stationed on the aircraft carrier USS John F Kennedy. It was in Boston and in the bowels of the Kennedy aircraft carrier that he started painting. After his service, Peters used the GI Bill to earn an MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD in 1977. From that moment to this, Peters has been presented in one-person exhibitions annually in galleries, museums and arts centers, receiving a huge retrospective at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, 2013, and major

exhibitions at the Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA, 2004, and University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, New Bedford, MA, 2009. He exhibited annually at the prestigious artists gallery, artSTRAND in Provincetown until its closing in 2015.

Jim Peters first came to Provincetown in 1982 as a Fellowship recipient at the Fine Arts Work Center. Early on in his career he was invited to participate in major exhibitions including "Ten Fellowship Artists", Marisa Del Re Gallery, NYC, curator, Berta Walker, 1983, and in 1985 "New Horizons in American Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Peters joined Berta Walker Gallery in Provincetown for ten years, when the Gallery opened in 1990. The Gallery is delighted now to welcome him back in this exhibition of intimate and intriguing constructions.

Jim Peters currently teaches at Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence, and lives with his wife, the writer and painter Kathline Carr, in North Adams MA.

SKY POWER paintings

SKY POWER's abstract paintings are both bold and delicate, conveying the duality of our common humanity and her singular inner journey. By adding and removing pigment from surfaces, or sanding through layers of color, even tearing off textured areas of paint, then reintroducing the pigment as collage, she relates an emotional aesthetic that embraces the paradox of our existence. Sky's work is metaphysical and private, like a developing language or the evolving chapters spinning out of a self-channeled tale.



Sky Power, Breakwater, 2018, oil on panel, 11 x 14"

In discussing her recent paintings with Berta Walker, Power said: "My new paintings emphasize the emotional quality of light in the landscape. Whether it be hourly, seasonal, or natural phenomena, time alters our experience as the light changes." Earlier, she had noted: "As a colorist, my objective is to create a strong composition using color as form. Most of my paintings emphasize the horizon, and some include geometric and figurative elements to convey a concept and create structure."

Working with challenging juxtapositions which range from near psychedelic color to black and grey tonalities, Power succeeds in giving view into "that window which is about our existence," as Power describes it, "a place beyond time." Power's masterful paintings evoke great emotion through the use of broad fields of intense color and cryptic marks, not unlike Rothko's paintings.

Susan Rand Brown notes in her article on Sky Power in Provincetown Arts: "Looking at Power's work over the last half-decade, we are aware that here is someone at the top of her game. Confident yet always questioning, she has consistently simplified her means of working the canvas until what leaves her studio is immediately identifiable as her own: we respond to the purity of the visual language, the absence of gimmickry and easy resolution."



Sky Power, The Warming Sun, 2017, oil on canvas, 24 x 30"

Whether her inspiration is Provincetown, her native Southwest or her European travels or her Native American heritage, Power's paintings introduce us to a unique vision that is Power's alone, "Like a language one has seen but can't quite recall," wrote Sue Harrison in the Provincetown Banner. "By dramatizing nature's horizon, my paintings revel in the expansive sky and turbulent weather so familiar to the plains I grew up on and coastal regions I now embrace."

Born in 1952, Sky Power has lived and worked in Provincetown for over 40 years, arriving in Provincetown in 1976 to launch a horse and carriage business. In addition to that business, and to establishing her studio as an artist, Power also forged a career as a piano tuner on the Cape. She has painted her entire life, studying figure drawing and painting from 1969-1971 with Ed Gothberg at Casper

College, Casper Wyoming, with continuing studies at Central Wyoming College, Riverton, WY, and Cornish School of Allied Arts, Seattle, WA. In Provincetown, she has done extensive printmaking study at the Fine Arts Work Center. Power has exhibited regularly since 1974 in Washington, D.C., Boston, on the Outer Cape and in Provincetown.

Provincetown and Wellfleet Gallery Hours Through Labor Day: 11-5 daily (closed Tuesdays)

Upcoming Exhibitions

PROVINCETOWN GALLERY

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 13

Collaborations by DAVID KAPLAN & RIDE HAMILTON
Booktail signing party and photography exhibition

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

"The HOPE Factor" A group show putting positive energy towards the November elections
Dates & reception to be announced.

WELLFLEET GALLERY

Rotating group & pop-up exhibitions through the Fall

"Berta Walker's gallery mission is voiced in the motto that has guided her over the years, 'Presenting the History of American Art as seen through the Eyes of Provincetown'. She aims for nothing less than documenting the role that artists associated with Provincetown have played in the major movements in American art...making the past vital to the living artists she represents, replenishing the present with a curatorial finesse that is highly regarded."

Andre van der Wende, Provincetown Arts

Representing:

Donald Beal, Varujan Boghosian, Polly Burnell, Romolo Del Deo, Salvatore Del Deo, Joseph Diggs, Rob DuToit, Ed Giobbi, Elspeth Halvorsen, Robert Henry, Brenda Horowitz, Penelope Jencks, David Kaplan, Judyth Katz, Anne MacAdam, Danielle Mailer, Erna Partoll, Jim Peters, Sky Power, Paul Resika, Peter Watts, Murray Zimiles **Estates:** Gilbert Franklin, Budd Hopkins, John Kearney, Gloria Nardin, Selina Trieff, Ione Gaul Walker, Nancy Whorf **Photography:** Grace Hopkins, Susumu Kishihara, Dana McCannel, Blair Resika, John Thomas

Masters in Our Collections: Gerritt Beneker, Byron Browne, Oliver Chaffee, James Floyd Clymer, Jim Forsberg, Sue Fuller, Dorothy Lake Gregory, Marsden Hartley, Charles Heinz, Charles W. Hawthorne, Hans Hofmann, Edward Hopper, Karl Knaths, Blanche Lazzell, Lucy L'Engle, Herman Maril, Ross Moffett, Vollian Rann, Helen Sawyer, Carl Sprinchorn, Agnes Weinrich.

Provincetown Folk Art and Ancient African Carvings and Bronzes

Berta Walker
GALLERY

PROVINCETOWN 208 Bradford St, Provincetown, MA 508 487 6411
WELLFLEET 40 Main St, Wellfleet, MA 774 383 3161
www.BertaWalkerGallery.com AMPLE PARKING

Grace Hopkins, Director
Berta Walker, Curator



David Henry Perry, Manager, Provincetown
Cristina Hadzi, Manager, Wellfleet