



For Immediate Release: New York- November 4, 2010

**40 under 4, A Group Holiday Show, opens November 26<sup>th</sup> in Riverdale  
Celebrating the creativity of contemporary artists at affordable prices.**

This holiday season, Elisa Contemporary Art will be filled with incredible and affordable artwork from artists from around the world. The exhibit, *40 Under 4*, will open on November 26<sup>th</sup> and will include works on paper, mixed media paintings and sculpture – all by contemporary artists – emerging through late career.

Some of the highlights include:

- New Mixed Media series by Rosalind Schneider based on her *Alaska Journey*
- Richly pigmented landscape paintings by Canadian artist, Marie Danielle Leblanc
- Chinese Character Inspired figures by Taiwan artist, James Chen-Feng Kao
- Deep colored and playful paintings and works on paper by Austin-based emerging artist, Allison Gregory and New York Artist, Melinda Hackett
- A new series of acrylic and painted paper collage imagined worlds by Nancy Tobin

The show will also feature mixed media works by Turkish artist Yasemin Kackar Demirel and Egyptian artist Carole Naggar, drawings by Laurel Garcia Colvin, moody landscapes by Syracuse artist Sharon Gordon and energetic journeys by Amy Cheng, as well as copper botanicals by Rhoda Island sculptor, Susan Freda. Please join us in celebrating the gift of Art this holiday season.

We will be hosting special events including:

- Pre-Holiday Preview Reception with Rosalind Schneider on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> , 12-4pm
- Special Sunday hours on November 28<sup>th</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm.
- Check website for additional events/happenings

5% of gallery commissions from sales will be donated to one of the support charities helping underserved children heal through art. We currently support Free Arts NYC, Creative Arts Workshop for Kids and our new partner, Arts to Grow.

Elisa Contemporary Art is located at 5622 Mosholu Avenue (near 256th Street/Riverdale Library), Riverdale NY. Gallery Hours: Friday/Saturday 10am – 6pm; And by Appointment.

**Special Holiday Hours: Sundays 12-4 pm on 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12**

**What: 40 under 4, A Group Holiday Show – Over 40 artworks priced under \$4,000**

**When: November 26<sup>th</sup>- January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Elisa Contemporary Art Gallery, 5622 Mosholu Avenue, Riverdale NY**

Contact: Lisa Cooper, owner, Elisa Contemporary Art, [www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com](http://www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com) [Lisa@ElisaArt.com](mailto:Lisa@ElisaArt.com)  
or 212.729.4974

## **About the Artists**

### **Amy Cheng**

Amy Cheng's work is about the heart's longing to be connected to the largeness of life and the timeless arc of the universe. According to Amy, *"I paint about the fact that we go about our lives preoccupied with our daily tasks forgetting that we live in a magical, wondrous and energetic universe"*

In her fluid and evocative style, Amy merges Western painting with the Eastern sensibilities of her heritage. Born in Taiwan, raised in Brazil, and educated in the US, Amy has developed a painting vocabulary influenced by the interplay of divergent cultures.

Amy is a mid-career artist and her work has been widely exhibited throughout the US and internationally. She is currently a Professor in the Art Department at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

### **Laurel Garcia Colvin**

Laurel Garcia Colvin has a history of presenting intricate and compelling stories through her Artwork . According to Laurel *"By juxtaposing images, in both individual works and installations, I suggest a multitude of possibilities, depending on the viewer's state of mind and experiences, rather than "tell" a story."*

Laurel Garcia Colvin has exhibited her works around the world including New York, Chicago, Barcelona and Dublin. Her work is also held in private collections in the United States, South America and Europe.

### **Yasemin Kackar Demirel**

Yasemin is one of our new emerging artists. She was born in Istanbul, received her MFA in DeKalb (IL), and currently lives in New York. Her work is a fragmented and reconstructed journey through the places she has lived and traveled, both real and imagined.

Her most recent works incorporate text from her *Facebook* page. According to Yasemin: *"I'm influenced by my physical and emotional encounters of places, and in my works I depict my reactions to the several phenomena housed in these places. In my current series of works, I am inspired by Facebook. I gather texts from my homepage on Facebook and write them over and over with a gestural manner in fast pace so that they start to form a motif."*

Yasemin has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in the US and Turkey. Her work is also in the Ipek-Ahmet Meryem Foundation in Istanbul, Turkey.

### **Susan Freda**

Susan Freda's is a Rhode Island sculptor whose works are intricate compositions of metal and glass. Susan's work is inspired by the sculptures of Eva Hesse and painter Sigmar Polke.

According to Susan *"My love of surface and texture is directly related to the interaction of light through the material. The ability of a substance to reflect, magnify, or obscure light is significant to me. I choose surfaces that act as windows or veils through which the patterns and transitions of light and line can be viewed."*

Susan's work is in the collections of the SF Moma Artist Gallery, the Italian American Museum of San Francisco, Stuart Weitzman of NY and in numerous private collections. She is the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award, and a de Young Museum Artist-in-Residence Award.

### **Allison Gregory**

Allison is an emerging artist who grew up in San Antonio and is currently based in Austin Texas. From the age of 10, she knew she wanted to be an artist.

According to Allison, *"My work is orchestrated by the spatial arrangements of color, line, texture, shape and pattern. I employ a variety of materials to cover my canvases, such as poured acrylic, polymer resin, dripped enamels, and all three*

*mixed together at times.. My palette is always bright and alive, with every color combination possible. My pieces are meant to be energetic and stimulating, thus maximizing the overall impact on the viewer. My ultimate desire is to hypnotically engage the observing eye."*

Allison calls her latest series of works "Pop-stracts" combining influences from pop culture with Abstract art. Her work has included several public arts projects including the 2006 Austin Guitar Town project.

### **Sharon Gordon**

The aqueous landscapes by Sharon Gordon allow the viewer to "examine small components of a larger view". Her work has been greatly inspired by her fascination with large bodies of water – how they remain whole, while constantly changing and moving. Sharon's Hudson-School inspired landscapes blend hazy views of a horizon with rich color.

Sharon was raised in upstate New York where and today resides in Syracuse. She received her Fine Arts Degree from Skidmore College and as a student also studied in France and Italy. Sharon's work has been exhibited throughout New York, Washington, D.C., and the East Coast.

### **Melinda Hackett**

Melinda Hackett is a New York based artist whose organic artwork depicts great movement that flows far beyond the borders of each canvas. According to Melinda *"One of my purposes in making paintings is to transport the viewer to a necessarily foreign place, where nature can be experienced without knowing it fully, and where reality is communicated through the senses."*

Her work has been exhibited across New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and California.

### **James Chen-Feng Kao**

James is an emerging, Taiwan-born American artist. He recently returned from an artist residency in London, at The Florence Trust.

His characters touch on his own identity - blending Asian and American cultures, as well as visual and literary references. He is also interested in the concept of blending cartoon-like characters with abstraction.

### **Marie Danielle Leblanc**

Canadian artist, Marie Danielle Leblanc, creates intense imagery through a deeply saturated palette. Her landscapes reach beyond reality into a poetic realm of timeless scenery. According to Marie *"I like to experiment with different medium such as acrylic, oil, tar, ink and wax. Painting carries me to places where strength and delicacy coast along; certainty and uncertainty; known and unknown; usual and strange; life and death."*

Her work has been exhibited throughout Canada as well as Sydney, Paris and Tokyo.

### **Carole Naggar**

Born in Egypt, Carole Naggar grew up in France and immigrated to New York in the late 80's. She currently lives in Riverdale. Her artwork is an ongoing dialogue between ancient and modern cultures and Eastern and Western traditions.

As both a painter and a writer, Carole looks to find a bridge between Eastern and Western traditions and cultures. In the process, she seeks a balance between dry and wet materials -- Sumi-e ink and pigment, gestural movements and inscriptions, control and chance.

In addition to exhibitions throughout the world, Carole is also the author of numerous books on photography.

### **Rosalind Schneider**

Rosalind Schneider has been at the forefront of innovative landscapes since the 1970's. She was the first artist to show "Film as Art" at the Hirshhorn museum at the Smithsonian in 1974. According to Rosalind *"I have been*

*interested in the translation, abstraction and restructuring of natural phenomena since the beginning of my artistic voyage as a painter”.*

In her latest series, *Alaskan Journey*, Rosalind uses imagery shot from a small plane, a boat and while hiking on the surface of a glacier. These mountain ice vistas and floating ice burls are all located in Prince William Sound and Wrangel St. Elias. This extraordinary *Alaska Journey* series includes a three channel video projection installation, as well as a series of photo fusion paintings.

Rosalind’s work has been shown worldwide -- throughout the US, Europe and Israel. Her video work has been part of exhibits at the Whitney Museum and is now part of the collection at the Museum of Modern Art (NY).

### **Nancy Tobin**

Nancy Tobin’s work encompasses layers of imagined landscapes and organic forms. She grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where her artistic development began at the young age of ten.

Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the U.S. Nancy studied art at San Francisco Art Institute(CA) and Kendall College of Art (MI) and currently lives in New Jersey.

### **About Elisa Contemporary Art**

Elisa Contemporary Art was founded in 2007 by Lisa Cooper and represents a portfolio of both emerging and established contemporary artists, many of whom have work in the permanent collections of major museums and corporations.

The gallery is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and collection of art as a way to enrich and heal our lives, our communities, and the world. A portion of every sale is donated to philanthropic organizations that help children and families within underserved communities heal and grow through their experience with art. We currently support Free Arts NYC, Arts to Grow and Creative Arts Workshops for Kids.

Elisa Contemporary Art exhibits at International Air Fairs, curates public and private exhibits, and has a gallery space at 5622 Mosholu Avenue, Riverdale NY (and is Riverdale’s only Contemporary Art Gallery). Private in-home or corporate art viewings are also available within the NY Tri-state area. Gallery Hours: Friday/Saturday 10-6pm and by appointment. Special Sunday hours on 11/21, 11/28, 12/5 and 12/12 from 12-4pm.

For more information, visit the website at [www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com](http://www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com) or contact Lisa Cooper at [Lisa@ElisaArt.com](mailto:Lisa@ElisaArt.com) or 212.729.4974