



The

# Independent

Published Tuesdays and Fridays

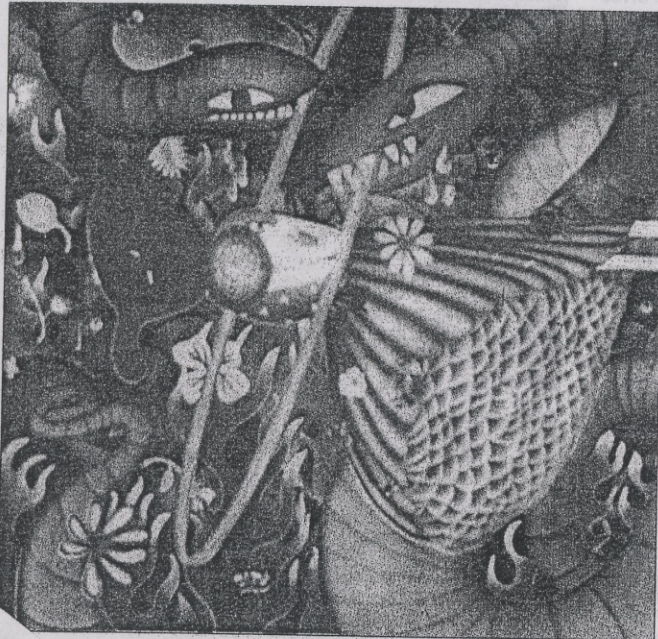
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Serving the Hudson-Berkshire Corridor

## Residents return

Millay Colony holds annual one-day alumni exhibit

By RICHARD ROTH



**A**rt at Steepletop, an annual event at the Millay Colony for the Arts, will be held this Saturday, July 27. Former residents at the colony will present visual art, live music and readings.

More than a thousand artists have been awarded residencies at the colony since its establishment in 1973 in memory of Pulitzer prize winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Artists of all ages and in all stages of their careers are provided room board and studio space. The Saturday open house includes the work of 23 former residents—18 visual artists, three writers and two composers. And at the end of the day, five singers from the Shaker Mountain Performing Arts Festival will perform songs set to Millay's poetry by eight different composers, including Leonard Bernstein.

Fourteen painters and four photographers will be showing their work on Saturday. The studio building which serves as a venue for the displays is the old Sears & Roebuck barn originally used for a dairy farm by the poet's husband, Eugen Boissevain.

The photographers displaying their work are Carolyn Monastra, April Gertler, Patricia McDonough and JoJo Whilden. Painters who will be exhibiting Nan Tull, Willie Marlowe, Paul Farinacci, Gail Siptak, Amy Cheng, Annette Rusin, Alex O'Neal, Soraya Marciano, Leslie Concannon, Danielle Dimston, Samantha Simpson, Mathew Weaver, Robin Arnold and Richard Lethem.

Nan Tull was a colony resident in 1989. She will show recent work in encaustic, which uses wax as a color medium.

She says she "first started taking encaustic seriously" during her residency at the colony. While the waxy, translucent look of encaustics could lead one to suspect they might not last, she points out that Egyptian mummy masks from the 2nd century are still with us, and "the colors remain as fresh as when they were painted." The oldest extant portrait of Christ, which dates from the 5th century, was also done in encaustic.

Tull's work ranges in size from  
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Image contributed

**SAMANTHA SIMPSON**, "Hydra the Pre-tidigitator," ink on paper, one of the works to be shown this Saturday at the Millay Colony for the Arts in Austerlitz.

### Millay

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4 x 12" to 12 x 48" and 22 x 26". The subject matter is clouds, with the tips of branches or metal cranes sometimes making an appearance. "In my work," she says, "I try to show a dialogue between order and chaos."

Scott Sandvik, who teaches jazz studies, improvisation, music history and music theory at the New England Conservatory of Music, will perform outdoors on Saturday. His work synthesizes characteristics of atonal and microtonal 20th century classical music with those of African-American music.

Sandvik is a classically trained guitarist and performs on fretted and fretless classical guitars. He is also a jazz scholar and has published an article on the music of Charlie Parker.

Composer/multi-media artist JoAnn Spies, a resident of Lee, MA, will

Melville, an original work of narrative and songs based on the life of writer Herman Melville.

Three writers, Austin Alexis, Karen Chilton and Staci Swedeen, will give readings during the open house. Austin is a poet from New York City. Chilton will read an excerpt from her biography- in-progress of jazz pianist Hazel Scott.

Swedeen resides in Sleepy Hollow and is a member of the Hudson Valley Professional Playwrights Lab. She was awarded a commission by the Ensemble Studio Theater in New York City for the 2000-2001 season.

The Millay Colony is located on East Hill Road in Austerlitz, approximately two miles east of the post office. There is no charge for admission, and refreshments will be served. *Art at Steepletop* is open from 1 to 5:30 p.m., with the performance by the Shaker Mountain Festival singers beginning at 5.

For more information, call 392-3103