

Freddie's Nose
and other works in fabric by

SYLVIA NEWMAN

Family: Recent Works by

ANDREW MASINO

September 5 – October 11, 2009

Reception for both: Saturday, September 5, 4-6:30 PM

At

art sites

651 West Main Street (Route 25), Riverhead, New York 11901 T: 631- 591-2401

<http://www.artsitesgallery.com>

Gallery Hours: Thursday –Sunday, 12-5 PM.

For group tour information and additional hours call 631-591-2401

Sylvia Newman

After a lifetime of editing, Sylvia Newman found herself creating vignettes of found and treasured objects, usually with humor stemming from the enjoyment of life's foibles. An exhibition of quilts at the Oysterponds Historical Society inspired Newman to make a quilt for a dying friend. She found fabric art to be physical evidence of affection, while steeped with associated meanings culled from the past history of materials and items carefully gathered for the artwork. Since 2004 her fabric art pieces are not those derived from collected historic patterns, but rather collages reflecting daily life. For instance, after photographing the refrigerators of friends, she fashioned *My Refrigerator*, which has "doors" that unfold to hint at the characters of friends by revealing the edible contents inside. She also collects memorabilia, buttons, material and jewelry donated by friends and acquaintances. In *Peacocks*, 149 ties with associated pins fan across the quilt's surface. The treasured pins range from humorous to precious, evidence of their original owner's interest in leisure pursuits or involvement in historical events. In *Freddie's Nose (after Jasper Johns)* Newman uses her partner's profile and classical interests to inform a subtle and witty play on "Summer" by Jasper Johns, linking personal experience to ancient and universal topics. While Johns' hues are somber, Newman's are golden.

Andrew S. Masino

Andrew Masino has been an extraordinary educator in the arts for 36 years. He has helped teens from various detention centers readjust to normal school settings, as well as been Supervisor of Art in both Syosset and in Delmar, NY, where he crafted one of the most innovative and curriculum rich art programs in a K-12 school system. While a mentor to young talent, Masino pursued his own artwork, showing at the Brooklyn Museum, International Small Works, the Hecksher Museum and Gallery North, among others. At *art sites*, we will show his recent works, which are Escher-like explorations of space and interconnections. While the pieces are intimate, the space explodes. His own words best describe how a lifetime of dedication led to this work.

Art is very long experience, what we have is a short period of time to search for ourselves in a chain of never ending canvasses, events, styles, drawings and life experiences. The most important thing to me is finding vehicles to keep on going. Whatever sparks the imagination challenges your creative ability and drives you to accomplish an end. At first it was the old masters, self-portraits, aerial views, landscapes, gardens and then abstracts.

As artists we spend a good deal of time alone grooming our skills and reflecting about what we have to do to strengthen our work. Sometimes we move to a different medium as in case of my most recent work using gouache. Certainly I've used many different mediums but gouache was totally new to me. I wanted to emphasize composition as a puzzle and found something else that I was unaware would happen. Choosing hard edge forms, storage tanks and interconnecting pipes, they became a story of family ties, tribulations, encounters, memory storage, observations, the lifeblood of a family passed from one to another. The patriarch, the birth of newborn, family confrontations, the watchful eye of our caretakers, the refined members and the advice of a knowledgeable person have affected us all. This what this work is about and of course it is part of a chain that leads to another series.