



Pelham Art Center

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TO: LISTINGS/CRITICS/FEATURES
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TRACY MILLER

2009 Alexander Rutsch Award and Exhibition for Painting May 15 – June 27, 2009



TRACY MILLER, *Wave*, 2007, oil on canvas, 72 x 72 inches

Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce **Tracy Miller**, a Brooklyn artist, as the winner of the 5th Alexander Rutsch Award in Painting. Ms. Miller's large still life paintings feature an abundance of guilty pleasures, "giant whirling picnics with whopping hot dogs, sticky pies, steamed lobsters, Budweiser beer cans, and dancing salt-and-pepper shakers – all in the midst of a frosting-smearred storm."

Ms. Miller will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a solo exhibition at Pelham Art Center, from May 15 – June 27, 2009. The eight finalists for the award were: Ryan Cronin, New Paltz, NY; Cara Enteles, New York, NY; Bradley Fesmire, Providence, RI; Julian Jackson, Brooklyn, NY; So Yoon Lym, Wayne, NJ; Lauren Portada, Brooklyn, NY; and Joshua Willis, Brooklyn, NY. Ms. Miller, the winner of this year's award, was a finalist in the 2007 competition. Prior Rutsch Award winners are: 2001, Frank Trankina, painting; 2003, Mitchell Marco, drawing; 2005, Dorothy Robinson, painting; and 2007, Liang Guo, painting.

Pelham Art Center is proud to sponsor the competition and award to honor the memory and artistic achievement of Alexander Rutsch (1916 – 1997), an artist who actively supported Pelham Art Center for more than 25 years. After his death, friends and supporters of Alexander Rutsch and his family established a generous and significant fund to support a bi-annual, open, juried competition in a range of mediums.

The Alexander Rutsch Award and Exhibition program continues Rutsch's belief that art transcends all of our humanity. Rutsch saw art as "the stone in the water sending ripples throughout the universe." His extraordinary work, rich in the celebration of life and our shared human experiences, is included in many of public and private collections throughout the US and Europe.

About Tracy Miller

Tracy Miller, a native of Storm Lake, Iowa, currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received a BFA from the University of Iowa in 1989 and an MFA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1993. She is a two-time recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Award (2006-07 and 1998-99); the Museum Purchase Prize, American Academy of Arts and Letters (2004), and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation Space Grant (2000-01), among other awards. Ms. Miller's work has been included in over 30 group exhibitions since 1992; the Alexander Rutsch Exhibition will be her sixth solo show. Her most recent one-person exhibit was held at Feature, Inc., New York, NY, in

2007. Her work is featured in the public art collections of Microsoft, Deutsche Banc, and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedelia, Missouri, and she has lectured as a visiting artist at numerous colleges and universities, including Bennington College, Bennington, VT; School of Visual Arts, New York, NY; School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; American University, Washington, DC; and Copper Union, New York.

“I want the paintings to squirt and move and hop,” writes Ms. Miller of these artworks. “The pleasures of the feast commingle with the nauseating aftermath, as areas of the paintings coagulate into representational space and other areas drop off into abstraction. I have been making large-scale still life paintings for over 15 years, and recurring themes include decadence, desire, digestion and piles and piles of guilty pleasure.”

About Alexander Rutsch

Alexander Rutsch was born in Vienna, Austria. After studying voice in Austria he became an opera singer like his parents, but after WWII, Rutsch’s love for visual expression propelled him to change careers. He was a painter, sculptor, philosopher, musician, singer and poet. His life as a romantic is reflected in his work, as he sought to perfect his soul and humanity, “I paint my dreams,” said Rutsch. “My dreams are color and life. They soar in my head like millions of symphonies. I can never stop building dreams.”

About Pelham Art Center

The Pelham Art Center is a multi-arts center that provides a place and opportunity for 16,000 area residents to see, study, and experience the arts in a community setting. Pelham Art Center receives funding from New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Westchester Arts Council, through county government; Westchester Jewish Community Services; Nurse’s Network; Comer Family Fund, The Chicago Community Trust; Town of Pelham; Legislative Grant from New York State Department of Education through State Senator Jeff Klein; YellowBook USA, Inc.; Target; Junior League of Pelham; Robin’s Art+Giving; Members; and Annual Fund Donors.

Visit www.alexanderrutsch.com for further information about the artist and www.pelhamartcenter.org for further information about the exhibition.

Opening Reception & Award Presentation and All Age Art Workshop

Friday, May 15, 6:30-8pm

FREE

Art Talk with Alexi Rutsch Brock

Tuesday, June 2, 7:00 – 8:00pm

FREE

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm and Saturdays 12 - 4pm.

The Gallery is free and open to the public and ADA accessible.

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