

The art celebration continues this week with “Common Ground: A Panel Discussion”

Four artists discuss their inspiration at WCC forum Thursday evening

By Dave Mueller

In celebration of the Peekskill Arts Alliance 25th anniversary of Open Studios and the 30th anniversary of the SUNY Westchester Peekskill Center for the Digital Arts in Peekskill, the two organizations have teamed up and created an engaging artist discussion and audience interaction experience entitled: Common Ground: A Panel Discussion.

Common Ground: A Panel Discussion will be held at the SUNY Westchester Peekskill Center for the Digital Arts in the Lecture Hall on June 13, from 6 – 8pm. “Its placement in time is meant to spin off by exactly one week from Off the Beaten Track opening reception which occurred on June 6th” said Joseph Squillante, moderator of the event.

“Dr. Sherry Mayo, Director at SUNY Digital Arts Center was very enthusiastic about Common Ground aligning with the Off the Beaten Track exhibit, which is currently on display in the Gallery, as SUNY WCC Digital Arts Center celebrates their 30th anniversary in Peekskill” Squillante mentioned.





Common Ground: A Panel Discussion

Co-hosted by Peekskill Arts Alliance (PAA) and
SUNY Westchester Peekskill Center for the Digital Arts

Thursday, June 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

27 N. Division St., Peekskill, NY 10566

“The aim of Common Ground: A Panel Discussion is to find that “common ground” which inspires artists to create work. Regardless of our various disciplines there is a place within all of them that drives us, a place where we connect to each other and then to our community” said Squillante, who is a photographer.

Squillante invited four local artists to participate at Common Ground to discuss their creative process and present some of their works to the audience. Artists include, Carol Bash – filmmaker, Therese Fokine – painter & crafts artist, Dan Florin – photographer, and Tom Muniz – mixed media conceptual artist. Squillante will moderate the event and ask thought provoking questions for the panel throughout the discussion. As the evening comes towards a close, the audience will be invited to participate, asking the panel questions they are eagerly waiting to learn the answers too.

“We are a friendly town where artists have an opportunity to strengthen friendships while offering a place to nurture and inspire the city’s community. We hope to find this “common ground” to nurture and inspire our city-at-large and we hope to find the “common ground” within Peekskill’s community-at-large” said Squillante.

“Building community is about building relationships; and this is why we come together to offer an opportunity to share in the artist’s disciplines and expressions with panel members.”

Off the Beaten Track is a group show that exhibits exciting works in all media by professional artists with studios located outside the Peekskill Downtown artists district, or those who were not able to have studios open during Open Studios weekend.

Off the Beaten Track is currently on exhibit and can be found in the gallery at SUNY WCC – Peekskill any day the college is open.

Recently, the Peekskill Herald, featured an article entitled “Celebrations abound as the 25th anniversary of Open Studios begins and the Artist District and WCC Peekskill celebrate their 30th year” where the history and roots of Peekskill’s Artist District, revitalization, and Open Studios as well as SUNY Westchester Community College Digital Arts Center in Peekskill can be found by following the sub-headlines within the article.

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