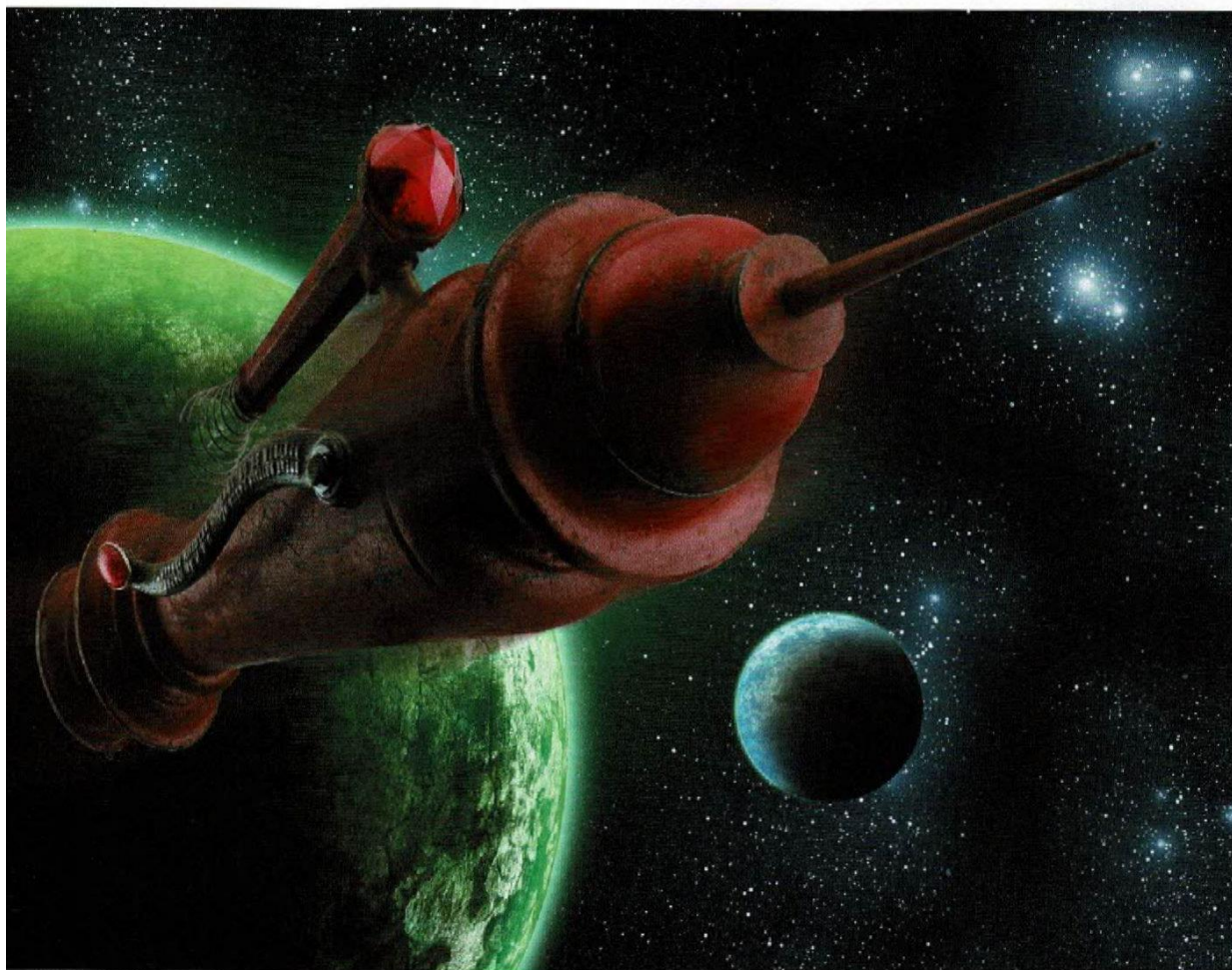


# SUSPENDED ANIMATION

KITTERY'S LOOMIS GALLERY'S DIVERSE LOOK AT DAILY LIVING



GALLERY SPOTLIGHT

SUSPENDED ANIMATION

LOOMIS GALLERY  
121 DENNETT ROAD  
KITTERY, MAINE

THROUGH NOVEMBER 19

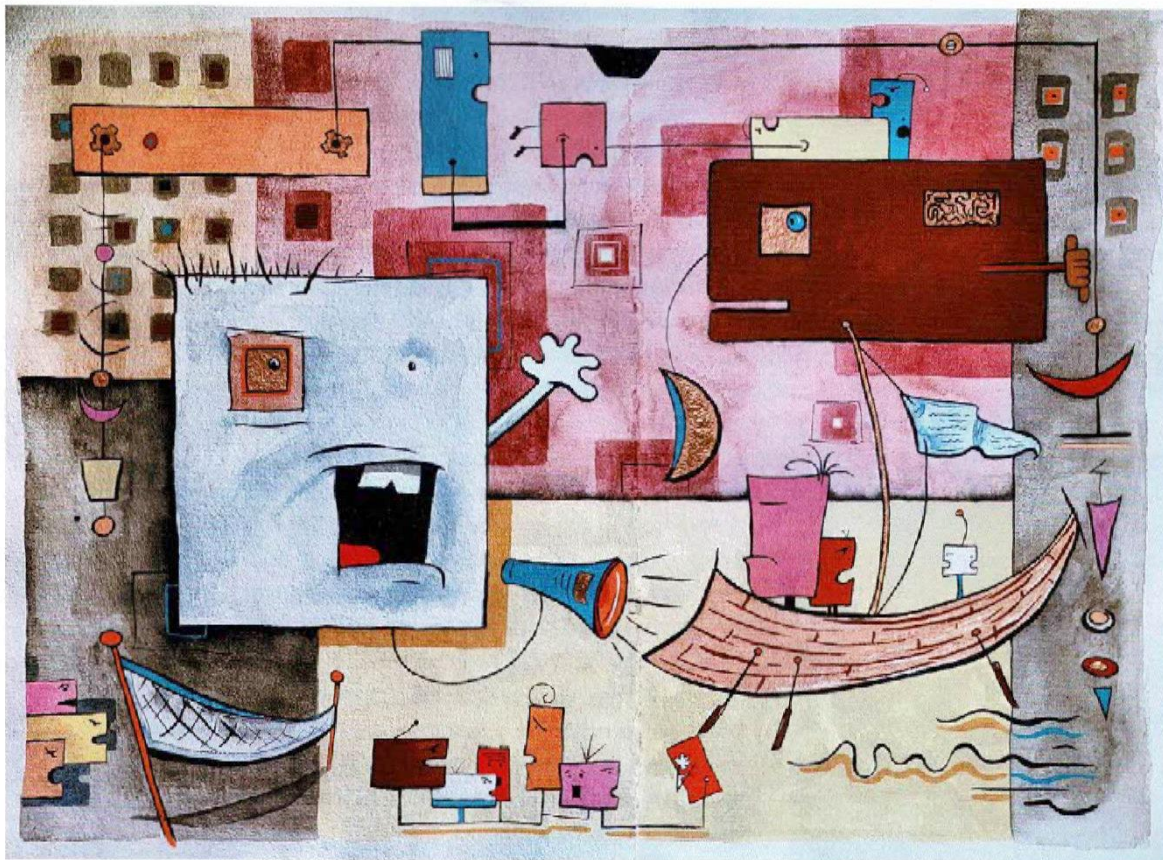
David Random, *Rocket in Space - Red Alert*, framed digital image, 9" x 12", 17" x 14" overall.

I've written hundreds of reviews of galleries, museums and fine craft shows over the years, with many clever thome titles, but I must say this is among the cleverest titles I've seen. "Suspended Animation" is a fresh look at the concept and how it can be expressed as art. The mixed mediums of five artists span from assembly work, watercolor and oil paintings to found materials. The artwork selected for this exhibition offers perspectives on daily living and our connections to the spaces and structures of our lives.

The diversity of this show adds immensely to the joy of experiencing it. There's Andrew Chulyk, who won't be limited by well-defined expectations. His career spans five decades and includes product and package design and works featured by the Society of Arts and Crafts and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. His paintings have also been exhibited widely in museums and galleries.

"Regardless of medium and materials," he said, "my work has always been grounded in geometry. Hidden or obvious, sacred, or profane, they explore abstract surrealist narratives." Composed of colorful geometric forms, they depict dream worlds filled with contradiction, mystery, and symbology. Rooted in surrealism's traditions where nothing is quite what it seems, the viewer is ushered toward a new perspective as to what is real and what is not.

Working on a small work surface with colored pencil over acrylic, Chulyk creates intensely colorful glimpses of the surreal geometry of figures moving through space but often with a peculiar sense of it all being in slow motion. "Into the Depths" feels like the person has just tripped on a stone and fallen to the ground, but you can almost see the image going by in slow-mo. But not to worry, the fall is broken by a capillary network of dense plant life that softens the blow.



TOP LEFT: Anita Loomis, *Testing A Public Policy*, float framed watercolor with gilding, 47" x 38".

BOTTOM LEFT: Andrew Chulyk, *Into the Depth*, colored pencil over acrylic, 28" x 21".

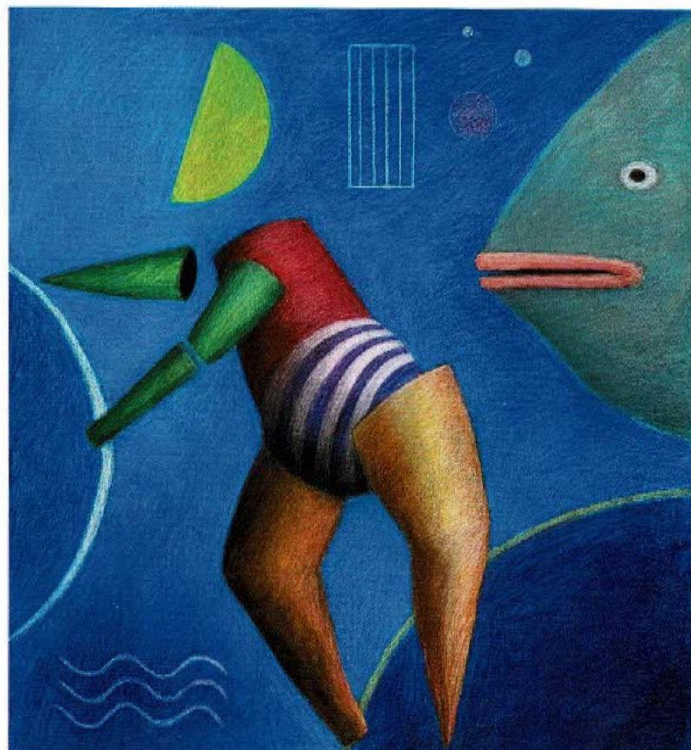
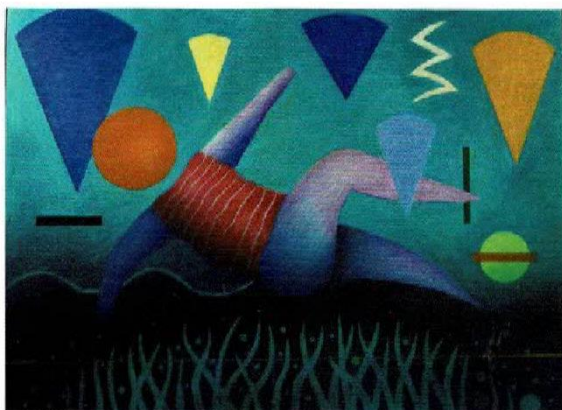
BOTTOM RIGHT: Andrew Chulyk, *Deep Dive*, colored pencil over acrylic, 19" x 21".

Chulyk's "Deep Dive" is enchanting. What is really going on here? A large fish unseen by the figure is just curious about this humanoid? Or does the figure look tasty to the fish? The rounded geometric forms in the painting are wonderfully calming.

Bess French isn't afraid to kick the edges and challenge the status quo. She offers a wry and playful perspective on domestic themes in her assemblage work using vintage materials and toys. She creates sculptural and encaustic work. She's had numerous solo shows of her assemblage work around the United States.

The piece that resonated with me is "From Scratch." An assembly of found objects, it felt like I was taking a step back in time — to my grandmother's kitchen in a South

Dakota farmhouse. There were no fancy cabinets attached to walls, just tree-standing units that had a flour chute (much like the one in French's assemblage), but hers is red. And French positions old-fashioned cookie cutters with handles,



and miniature cake molds behind two Black figures. The figures portray the stereotypical perfect housewife (with apron) and little girl (holding her dolly).

A bit more poignant, with a strong message is a French piece in a green-framed box, again with small figures in it on three shelves, toys strewn about and a tiny chest with a teeny lamp. But this time, the adult figure, still Black, is portrayed as a professional, grasping her briefcase and sporting heels. Little yellow toy blocks are scattered about. The piece has a prominent classroom bell with two orbs — like when you were in elementary school — maybe symbolizing breasts? And the title of the work says a lot: "Strong As a Mother."

Telling stories about intrigue and fertility, Rosalind Fedeli's assembly work uses found materials. She's spent 30 years in assemblage, collage and mixed media. Her works are small, but powerful. "Making art is a solitary endeavor, sharing it connects me to people," she said.

Working on pieces daily, Fedeli is totally immersed in her art and produces many pieces all with a message that may be subtle or glaring. Whichever, she's mastered the art of delivering a message. And when she desires diversity, she also is a landscape painter.

Encased in a white frame with an architectural peak, "Fertility," is a fascinating study. The egg shape is surrounded in yet another frame and nestled on a soft bed of lace. With what appears to be a door, the delicate creation is ensconced and protected. Read into it as you wish.

Equally titillating is "2 Seed Pods." This Fedeli piece is also encased in an exterior unfinished wooden frame with two square compartments wrapped in a small-patterned Chinese print. In the middle of both squares is a round wooden ring attached to a wrapped package underneath. And each square has a small drawer with a beaded pull. You can think of all sorts of things these various pieces symbolize — but it does lead back to fertility. Twins perhaps?

The delightful surprise of David Random's work keeps getting better. His career background included decades as an art director at Boston and New York advertising agencies. Now based on the Seacoast of New Hampshire, he scavenges antiques and vintage artifacts to create sculptures. His rocket ship sculptures have been featured in numerous museums and many grace the sideboards of private collectors.

**LEFT:** Rosalind Fedeli, *Seed Pods*, mixed media assemblage, 8 1/2" x 16 1/2" x 6".

**RIGHT:** Rosalind Fedeli, *Fertility*, mixed media assemblage, 12" x 18" x 6".



So much fun! I am mesmerized by the creative miscellany that he puts together that comes out perfectly. Like what? Well, his "Pulsar III" rocket ship is insanely clever. It's a compilation of repurposed antique artifacts — all consistent within the same time period. He used an oil can for the "nose" of the craft, old-fashioned antenna ears, a flashlight, a blender, a tea bag strainer — and voila — you have a spaceship! And the little light on the top is an old Christmas lightbulb — and it lights up!

"My retro-rockets evolved after years of antique collecting," Random said, "when I noticed that many of these individual pieces seemed to fit together. The resulting combinations preserve the original details while creating an entirely new aesthetic of fantasy sculpture." Then there's his digital photo creations — Chesley Bonocelli move over! "Rocket in Space - Red Alert" is so inviting you want to join in the outer space adventure!


Another unforeseen delight is Anita Loomis' work. It's tricky to describe her work because it changes frequently. But for this exhibition, the work was of a Dr. Seussical ilk. Witty. Wry. Wonderful. And with a message. And they're literally hanging in Lucite encasements — hence "suspended animation."

Her "Testing a Public Policy" is large — 47" x 36". It's a float framed watercolor with gilding. The piece is so imaginative. If you absorb it awhile, you begin to "hear" it speak. You can anticipate the reactions. "Who's listening?" "Give this thumbs up or thumbs down?" "Let's see if it floats?" "Which side of the net will it fall?" "Let's run it up the flagpole."

Loomis is a painter who works in watercolor and oils. She has a background in architectural glass which informs her expressionistic work. A bit of a chameleon, she paints in a wide range of distinctive styles, and her artwork has exhibited internationally.

Now making her home and studio in Kittory, Maine, she is the founder of Loomis Gallery. Anita is a member of various art associations and exhibits in the New England area. Loomis earned her BA in Studio Art, an MA in Arts Management and Grad Certificate in Public Administration. She creates prolifically and works to support other artists.

**Linda Chestney**



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450 HARRISON AVE

BOSTON, MA 02118

617.835.0435

NICKPETERSONDAVIS.COM