



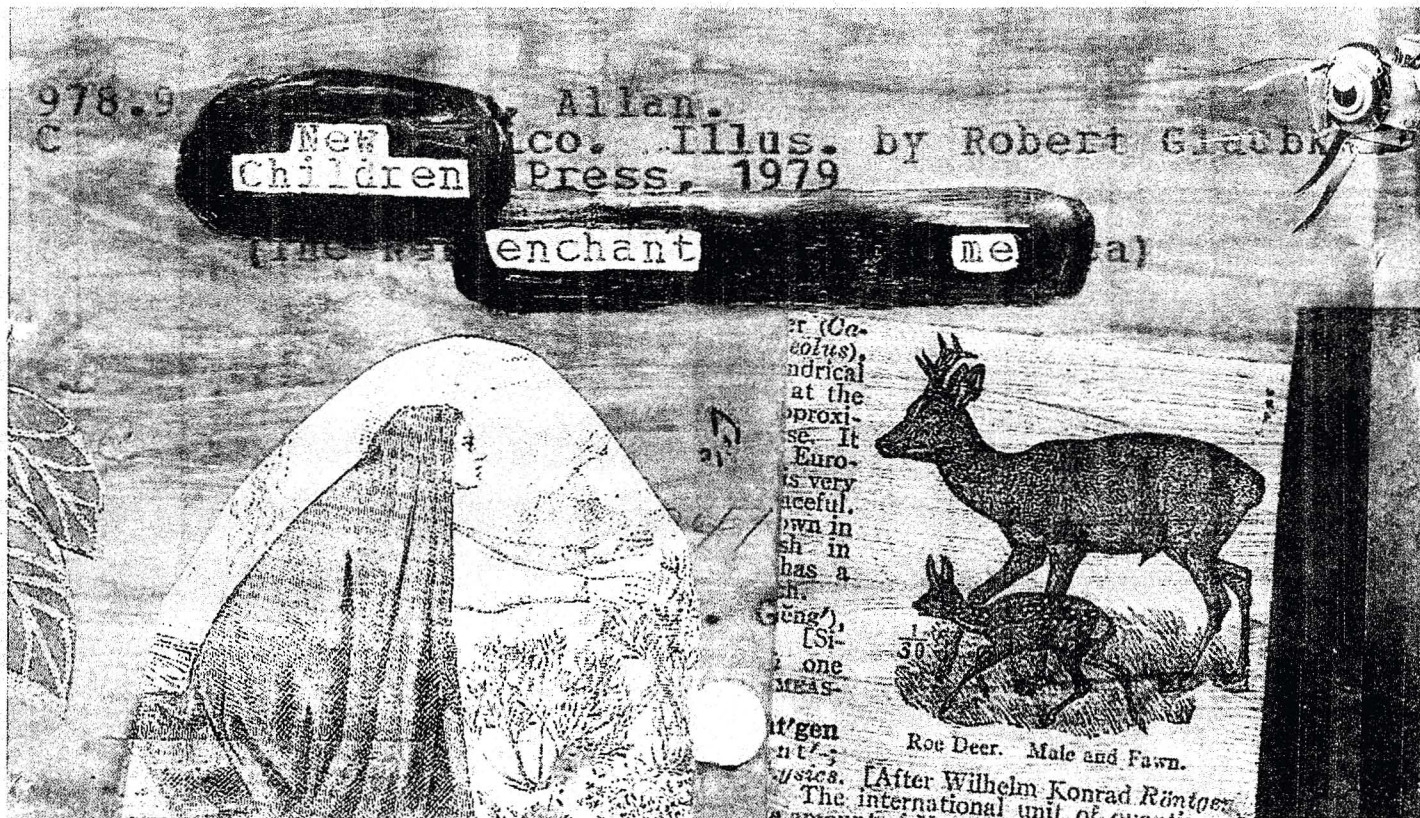
arts

art



last chance

"The Secret Garden" closes this weekend at the Airport Playhouse, 218 Knickerbocker Ave., Bohemia, 631-589-7588, airportplayhouse.com. \$14 to \$22.



Left, artist Joel Moskowitz's ink, acrylic and collage "New Children Enchant Me"; above, Doc Dochterman's sculpture "Mother of All Wasps"

WHAT "Expo 28: International Juried Competition Winners," selected by Stina Puotinen of the Whitney Museum of American Art, featuring the work of Anthony Alston, Doc Dochterman, Christina Empedocles, Sean Gallagher, Kurt Hippauf, Daniel Koterbay, June Kim, Margie Kelk, Anthony Lazorako, Damian Masanz, Joel Moskowitz, Blake Ogden, Scott Polach and Ann Torke.

WHEN | WHERE Opens Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (until 9 p.m. Fridays), through March 31, at the b.j. spoke gallery, 299 Main St., Huntington

INFO Free; reception from 6 to 9 p.m. March 7; 631-549-5106, bjspokegallery.com

BY STEVE PARKS
steve.parks@newsday.com

'Expo 28': The jury is in at b.j. spoke gallery

It's the wanderlust gallery that settled down but still travels vicariously. For 28 years, b.j. spoke gallery — formerly of Port Washington, Sea Cliff and Northport, but since 1990 on Main Street in Huntington — has hosted annual juried competitions that give artists who ordinarily wouldn't have the opportunity a chance to show on Long Island. This year's international show, opening Sunday in three mini-galleries under one roof, brings 14 artists from as far away as San Francisco, Toronto and Mesilla, N.M. (none from Long Island, unless you count Brooklyn).

To broaden its field of vision, b.j. spoke, a cooperative gallery that exhibits its member artists' work, hired an outside juror to select pieces from more than 400 submitted. We spoke to juror Stina Puotinen, senior coordinator of family programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and Liz Ehrlichman, a member artist on the "Expo 28" committee.

WHY DO MEMBERS WANT TO SHARE THEIR SPACE?

"For one thing, it helps pay the rent," says Ehrlichman, whose representational paintings creating mood and atmosphere are on the b.j. spoke Web site (bjspokegallery.com). "But it also gives us wider exposure to what's out there. With a members' gallery, you tend to see what we

see. This gives us and people who come to our gallery a chance to see new and exciting things."

DID THE MEMBERS INFLUENCE YOUR CHOICES?

"When they invited me," says Puotinen, who also has participated in selecting works for Whitney Biennial shows, "I wanted to know what they were looking for. They just said, 'Go for it.' I gathered, though, that they were looking for innovative new work, reflecting a larger perspective. So I tried to be inclusive — video, painting,

mixed media, sculpture. I wanted the show to reflect where art is headed."

SO, WHERE IS ART HEADED?

Puotinen laughs at the question she had begged. "It's headed in a lot of directions," she says. "New media plays a big part. I see social and political perspectives, especially with American artists: do-it-yourself work, recycling and pieces built around words — not necessarily object-based."

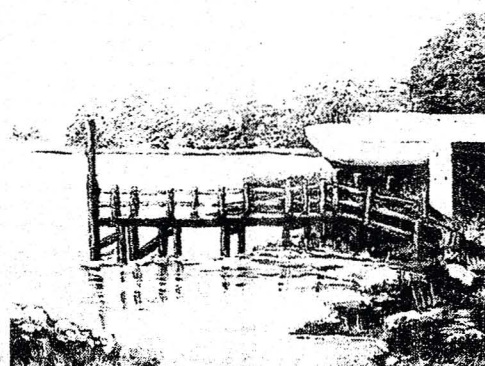
WHAT WILL WE SEE IN EXPO 28?

Recalling what she'd just said about pieces built around words, Puotinen cites an acrylic-and-collage on a library card — not exactly new media — titled "New Children Enchant Me" by Joel Moskowitz of Sudbury,



Toronto artist Margie Kelk's ink-and-watercolor "Designer Zhong Kui"

- **WHAT** "Three C's: Composition, Color, Creativity," works by multimedia artist Leni Friedland.
- **WHEN | WHERE** Opens tomorrow, through March 30, at Briarcliffe College, 225 W. Main St., Patchogue, 631-928-8564.
- **INFO** Free; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.



Artist Leni Friedland's colorful acrylic is part of an exhibit at Briarcliffe College.