

For immediate release:

Gallery Directors:
Audrey Anastasi
Joseph Anastasi

PAPER CUTS
Art with an Edge
September 21- October 29, 2005

Artists Reception:
Wednesday, September 21, 2005, 5:30 - 8 pm

Tabla Rasa Gallery, located in SPArC (Sunset Park Artists' Community) opens the fall season with PAPER CUTS, an exhibition of artwork based on cut, torn, pasted and collaged paper.

Featuring artwork by:

Audrey Bernstein
Beatrice Coron
Erica Harris
Carmen Hay Kolodzey
Philomena Marano
John O'Reilly
Daniel Scheffer
Willie Torbert

Gallery hours:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Noon - 5:00 pm

Call for additional hours
718. 768-0305
718. 833-9100
or visit www.TablaRasaGallery.com

TABLA RASA GALLERY
224 48 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

North end of "R" train to 45th Street exit
Easy parking after 4:00 pm and weekends

PAPER CUTS

Art with an Edge

In the first exhibition of the fall season, Tabla Rasa Gallery presents artwork based on cut, torn, pasted and collaged paper. In the hands of eight extraordinary artists, the simplicity and directness of the process takes on a primal power. "Almost every child has made their earliest creations putting white glue on paper," says Director Joseph Anastasi. "You can still feel the sense of wonder and creative innocence in these sophisticated works."

Willie Torbert says when he saw the images of Harlem in the Romare Beardon show in the Brooklyn Museum, over twenty years ago, "It changed my life." The impact of Beardon's exhibition, and Willie's work at that time with children at a daycare facility, inspired him to choose the medium of collage. His dynamic and lively works teem with life, depicting the people and places, windows and rooftops of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Philomena Marano acquired the cut paper technique while working as a studio assistant for noted pop artist, Robert Indiana. She says, "It has its roots in the American cut out tradition- a popular American folk art form, which I push to embrace my subjects of the 21st century. Like the nature of my subjects, my knife whirrs, zigzags and undulates, cutting into the vibrant, heavily coated color aid paper, my primary medium for the past two decades." The razor sharp edge of her x-acto blade infuses the work with clarity and tension, and "magical realism."

Born in France, **Béatrice Coron** is an internationally exhibited artist who creates dramatic silhouettes. First introduced to the cutout method in her native France, Coron was further exposed to cutting techniques while living in China. "My medium is papercutting; I have been working in the format of books and scrolls. These books are conceived as narratives (with or without text), an easily transported form of nomadic art."

In addition to vintage photographs and newspaper clippings, **Erica Harris** uses onionskin, birchbark, and crushed eggshells. Extracting words and images from children's encyclopedias, broadsides, shorthand manuals, mid-century magazine advertisements, sewing patterns, old photographs, city maps, and medicine and candy labels from around the world, she uses glue and a sewing machine to piece together narrative scenes.

Photocollage artist **John O'Reilly** creates his richly personal compositions using an old Polaroid camera. He presents his own image, sometimes nude, seamlessly enmeshed into the world of great art masterpieces. In addition, he uses pictures from family photo albums and clippings from gay magazines. "The self-portraits try to establish both a self-identity and a social identity. I attempt to counter the sense of imprisonment, the feelings of marginalization, by insisting that my private world exists as an integral part of the larger social context."

Audrey Bernstein's deeply moving metaphoric portraits of men, women and children were inspired by the Holocaust. Shrouded in soft focus, framed by the weight of statistics and hard facts, she presents a compelling marriage of photography and collage elements. "Among the materials I use are tattooed numbers, endless lists of names, and the architecture of the death camps. Within this structure, we catch a glimpse of a person, as if half-remembered. They are the sisters that died, the sons who escaped, and the children never born."

Carmen Hay Kolodzey surprises us with her fiber and paper works. Targeting abuses in the garment industry, she hems paper and stitches a political dialect. Whether within the oversize dress-pattern cutout shapes or within quiet doilies, rifles and references emerge subtly, from the skillful and pristinely painted decorative borders.

Daniel Scheffer is an artist living and working in Coney Island, NY. Passionately interested in the interplay of light and form, he works primarily in paper and copper, creating relief-style and free standing profiles and figures. In his iconic works, he creates an intricate population of repeated, but subtly varied elements forms.

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The gallery is located at 224 48th street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues in SPArC (Sunset Park Artists' Community). The "R" train stops at 45th Street. Parking is very easy on Saturdays.

Tabla Rasa Gallery is open to the public Fridays and Saturdays, from July 9th through August 27 from noon until 5 pm. (Note: The gallery will be closed on the day of Saturday, August 20.)

Call 718. 768-0305 or visit [www.TablaRasaGallery.com](http://www.TablaRasaGallery.com) for additional hours