

# Missing Peace Art Space



When the Fruits of Our Labors are Ours

## THE WORLD'S FIRST PERMANENT ARTISTIC PEACE FORUM

BY JUD YALKUT

A refurbished two-story brick carriage house in Dayton's St. Anne's Hill neighborhood is the home of an extraordinarily unique art and community resource called the Missing Peace Art Space. Loosely affiliated with the Dayton Peace Museum and International Cities of Peace, Missing Peace is self-described as "a tolerant, non-commercial artistic forum for contemplating the issues of peace and violence," a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Unitarian Fellowship for World Peace.

Founded by gallery owner Gabriela Pickett and gallery director Steve Fryburg, the Missing Peace Art Space presents exhibitions of compelling peace art in four to six week exhibitions. Pickett, born in Mexico, studied studio art and graduated with a master's degree in humanities from Wright State University. She always wanted to have a gallery space of her own with a studio space to paint.

Pickett, a St. Anne's resident, reflected on the moment she saw the building for sale. "It was a mess when I first saw it," she said, "but when I went inside I miraculously saw a studio upstairs and a gallery downstairs, a gallery for peace which I always desired." Hard work and restoring three layers of floors with added rooms in the rear now provide copious exhibition space.

Fryburg, a former military police officer who

served as deputy sheriff in Bellbrook before retiring from law enforcement in the 1990s, was a founder of the Dayton Peace Museum and director of the organization from 2006-2009. In 2006, the Peace Museum notably featured an art for peace exhibition, a show that included work by Pickett.

"It was a great show but the facilities on Monument Avenue were too difficult for mounting a proper exhibition," he said. "Our main room had green striped wallpaper which distracted from any artwork you would put on top of it, but when I made mention about changing it and painting it there was a struggle between people who wanted to retain the antiquity look of the building versus

those for a gallery. Soon I resigned from the directorship and Gabriela and I talked about her space and the dedication to peace and social justice. This space was originally intended to be attached as an organizational part of the museum's structure, but now we're separate and have a symbiotic relationship."

Fryburg is affiliated with the International Cities of Peace program, designed to create a network of communities that self-define themselves as official Cities of Peace, for which he serves as the director of International Programs. "I've done a lot of international travels to Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, Indonesia and other places,"

he said, "so we can recruit people onto the advisory board to get more global participants."

Missing Peace Art Space is also part of the International Network of Museums for Peace, which is opening a Secretariat in The Hague, Netherlands. Plans are ongoing for an exhibition opening at The Hague City Hall that will feature art from Missing Peace. Fryburg will visit The Hague in May to formulate the details. "I handle the Web site for International Museums for Peace," he added, "and that way we share our exhibits with other museums around the world and it helps create an excellent peace community."

The Missing Peace Art Space is thus part of the creation of a network of sharing. The great discrepancy in the world is the very small budget for peace as compared to the massive amounts for military expenditures. "Right now this place is pretty much funded from our own pockets so

we have to watch what we are doing and prioritize what we can," Fryburg said. "But we're very lucky in having great pieces being donated to us, like a work by Arrigo Musti and a fourth of the pieces by Mary Perry Stone, on exhibition now, being donated by her daughter, so that we can share this work with libraries and schools in the area and other museums in our network."

The first official exhibition at Missing Peace was the "Know Peace Know Justice" show which was presented September 4-October 12, 2009

by New York artist Max Ginsburg who taught for 40 years at such venues as the School of Visual Arts. Born in Paris, Ginsburg grew up in Brooklyn and is a social realist influenced by Goya and Kollwitz with imagery of people on the streets of New York, dealing with social conditions and injustices.

Another exhibition of "Art for Peace" featured Arrigo Musti, born in 1969 in Palermo, Italy. Trained in law, he taught himself aesthetic techniques and human anatomy at the age of 33. He has exhibited worldwide with his work handled by the Saatchi Gallery in London. His tremendous head portraits related to the victims of torture are expressionistic with recollections of Pollock's intense application of paint, the facial distortion of Francis Bacon and the screaming apparitions of Munch.

Missing Peace's current exhibition "Art Makes



Gallery owner Gabriela Pickett and gallery director Steve Fryburg



Bombs Away... Why?

of 40 women sculptors on the New York City Federal Arts Project (WPA), during which time she began to focus on social protest work from the 1930s and 1940s on. She was influenced by the Great Depression and was determined to work for a more humane world.

To honor Stone's devotion to peace and social justice, Missing Peace is dedicating a space specifically for her work and also a space to be called "The Mary Perry Stone Women's Art Gallery," which was inaugurated February 6 by her daughter Ramie.

Her "So You Love War?" (c. 1980s) depicts expressionistically a red clawed monster grabbing humans and creatures in a stormy atmosphere and elsewhere anonymous colossi, one labeled with a U.S. flag, are dropping heads and drowning hearts in a great vat of the sea in "Bombs Awy... Why?" (c. 1960s) also called "Down the Drain." Further, a red-faced puffed up monster hovers over a kicking nude figure in "Horror of War" (1968) and more recently missiles draped with corpse faces and dripping blood angle up in a violent yellow burst emblazoned with the title "War!" (1999).

Stone also frequently painted poignant images of the proverbial mother and child ranging from a water colored female figure with braids enveloping two wide-eyed, round-faced beings to



Blood Rain 1



Speak Peace from K12 Gallery

a beautifully simplified watercolor mother with a child hanging on, all in expressively spare and calligraphic lines. A large pink hog-like figure lies on its back with legs splayed over an arc of international flags in "Target of the Imperialist Patrioteers," and an international group of figures sits on an arched boat-like form with children, drums and accompanying birds in "When the Fruits of Our Labors are Ours" (1989), a large oil on canvas donated to Missing Peace.

In addition, the organization has planned two

notable exhibitions. Slated for April 2-May 9, "A Show of Respect" by Canadian Helen Broadbent will offer a series of works painted for the chil-

dren of war, revolving around 10 large oil paintings that underscore "the violation of these children's basic human rights." "A Show of Respect" will feature paintings of a child from a different country and the effects of war, with each piece including one of the articles from "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in the language of each child. Following "A Show of Respect" will be "Light, Shadow and the Ordinarily Sacred" by Martha Gilliom slated for June 4-July 11.

"We could book right now for the next two years," Fryburg said. "We've (secured) an Iranian woman who spent two years in their prisons for social activism who lives in California, a gentleman from Mexico who does woodcuts and a woman in New York who does posters for the War Resisters League and they would all show for non-profit since we're providing the venue." The Missing Peace Art Space continues its community involvement with neighboring Stivers School for the Arts, the K-12 Gallery who have several pieces on display and the Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors who often assemble at the space for live model sketching and painting.

The Missing Peace Art Space is located at 234 Dutoit Street at Fifth Street in Dayton. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday 2 to 7 p.m. Admission is free but donations are accepted. For more information, call (937) 841-4363 or visit online at [www.missingpeaceart.org](http://www.missingpeaceart.org).

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