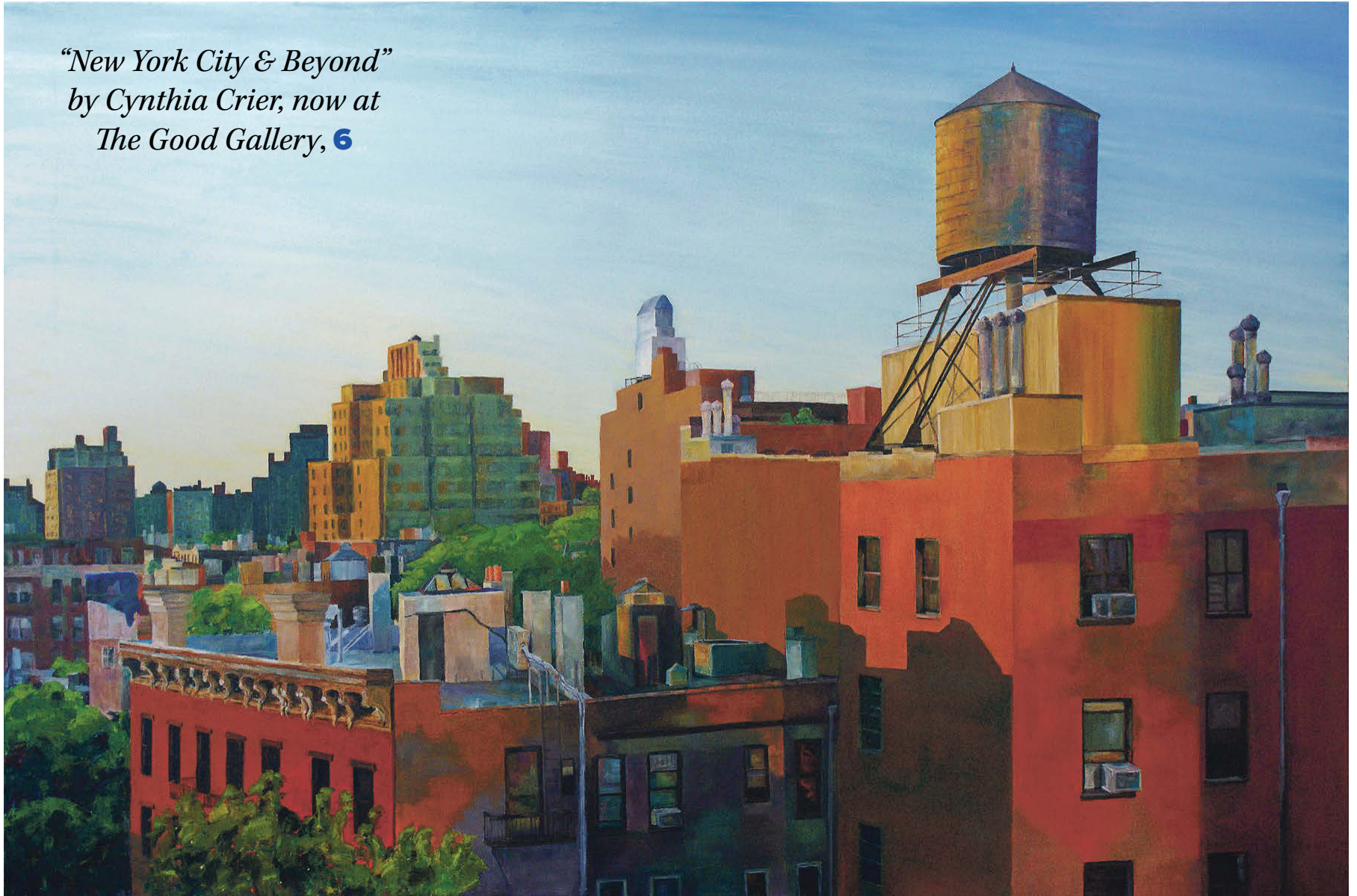


# COMPASS

*Your Guide to Tri-State Events*

*July 13, 2023*

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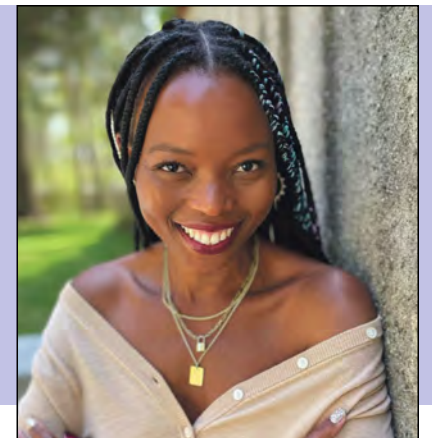


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"6 AM" BY CYNTHIA CRIER

# COMPASS

July 13, 2023

Published by The Lakeville Journal Company

PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

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John Coston, *Editor-in-Chief* • Alexander Wilburn, *Compass Editor*  
 Susan Hassler, *Publisher and CEO* • James Clark, *Chief Operating Officer*  
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## Hot Summer Outside The City

Cynthia Crier's "6 AM" featured on the cover of this special July issue of Compass Arts & Entertainment is here an ode to everyone packing up the car or riding on a northbound MetroNorth train to Wassaic, N.Y. — it's that time of year again to get out of the New York City sizzle and get going to the art openings, chamber music concerts and theater performances that make being Upstate and in The Berkshires so vibrant this time of year.

This July, Craven Contemporary in Kent, Conn., continues its five year anniversary summer exhibition series while WAM Theatre in Lenox, Mass., champions female playwrights and performers and The Hotchkiss School welcomes international superstars of the classic music world.

*Your Compass editor,  
 Alexander Wilburn*

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PHOTO BY BRIAN WILCOX

**ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

# The Art of Dreaming

**A**t a private viewing at James Baron Art, the by-appointment contemporary American and European gallery space Baron shares with his wife, celebrity portrait photographer Jeanette Montgomery Baron, guests were asked to examine the beauty and ugliness of an addiction to futile dreaming. “Without a king, everybody wants some heaven,” is a re-imagined installation of previous work by the collaborative artist duo Lauren Was and Adam Eckstrom, known together as Ghost of a Dream. Frequent New York commuters

will recognize their work on display last fall in Penn Station as part of the design installation concept “Art at Amtrak” curated by Debra Simon. That piece, “Aligned by the Sun (Connections),” combined photographs of sunsets from 200 people from countries across the world, a unification of views and dreams beyond borders. In “Without king,” dreams remain the subject, but this time the material was lottery tickets. “This work was originally presented in 2011 at a Northern Italian church in Bologna called Santa Maria



PHOTO BY JEFF BARNETT-WINSBY



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Della Vita, all laid out on the floor of their oratorio. The church had beautiful mosaic work on the floor but the tiles were all faded, so we wanted to create these vibrant pieces that looked like they levitated off the floor,” said Was. The late-Baroque Roman Catholic church, located in the historic Quadrilatero district, home to Bologna’s oldest marketplace, is also home to the 1463 sculptural group “Lamentation Over the Dead Christ” by Niccolò dell’Arca. Ghost of A Dream offered an installation with a more contemporary subject, and potentially less anguish than dell’Arca’s terracotta drama — although that depends on the viewer.

“We wanted to relate the ideas between religion and the lottery — how different people conceive of different hopes and dreams.”

Shaped into geometric star and

snowflake patterns on the walls of James Baron Art, the pieces by Was and Eckstrom are not printed wallpaper, but crafted from real lottery tickets, scratches, and dashed dreams and all. Like their cull of sunset photos, Ghost of a Dream’s prime source of the material is other people and the common threads that connect them.

Based in the hamlet of Wassic, N.Y., Was and Eckstrom have been a part of the artist-run nonprofit artist residency The Wassaic Project nearly since its beginning, and continue to reinvent their material for each new installation — from lost playing cards to discarded artists’ catalogs.

Ghost of a Dream’s installation “Yesterday is Here” is currently on view through the summer at the MasArt Art Museum (MAAM) in Boston, Mass.



PHOTO BY JEFF BARNETT-WINSBY

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SUNDAY, JULY 16

2 PM: Pre-Concert Talk And Film

The love story of Zhanna Arshanskaya Dawson, who escaped Nazis in her native Ukraine and made her way to America, the Juilliard School and Music Mountain



3 PM: Penderecki String Quartet & Anya Alexeyev, Piano

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"CHRISTOPHER STREET" BY CYNTHIA CRIER, COURTESY OF THE GOOD GALLERY

**ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Now on View in Kent

At The Good Gallery, next to the Kent Art Association on Route 7 in Kent, Conn., gallerist and framer Tim Good has invited New York-based artist Cynthia Crier to exhibit a series of warm-toned cityscape oils and collages titled "New York City And Beyond." A softer interpretation of the American Ash Can School, which depicted the grit and daily life of the downtown bustle, Crier's views of The West Village radiate sunlight, capturing even the underground station at Christopher Street with an amber glow. On view through Sunday, July 30.

Dive into the darkness at Kenise Barnes Fine Art at the Kent Barns as Canadian painter Janna Watson, in her third show with the gallery, unveils a new series of chilly abstracts in "The Warmth of Blue." With titles like "Back Paddles to the Backside of My Own Mind" and "Moon is a Pulse That Runs Itself," Watson's broad oil and acrylic hypnotic strokes feel lunar and maritime at once, like crushed

oyster shells and pearls reflecting in a kaleidoscope. On view through Wednesday, Aug. 30, with an opening reception on Saturday, July 15, at 4 p.m.

At Craven Contemporary in the Kent Barns Andrew Craven continues the gallery's summer anniversary showcase with "Five Years Part II" with work that includes past exhibitors like Jeff Wallace, Thomas Fuhs, Will Hutnick, and Jeff Joyce. Returning as well is work by American painter Michael De Feo, whose street art style covers the canvas in a wind-storm of pastel petals. His latest book from Poster House New York, "Out of Fashion" continues his conversation with art and advertising with his signature pieces of fashion ads, taken from bus stops and subway stations and cover it floral brushstrokes — the poised faces of Kate Moss, Kiera Knightley and Gigi Hadid commonly seen in ads obscured, but rebirthed into something one of a kind. On view through Sunday, Aug. 28.



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"BACK PADDLES TO THE BACKSIDE OF MY OWN MIND" BY JANNA WATSON, COURTESY OF KBFA



"WALKING INTO SUNSHINE" BY MICHAEL DE FEO, COURTESY OF CRAVEN CONTEMPORARY

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LEFT, PHOTO DISNEY HYPERION,  
RIGHT, THE PETER PAN STATUE  
IN HYDE PARK, LONDON  
BY ROBERT LAMB

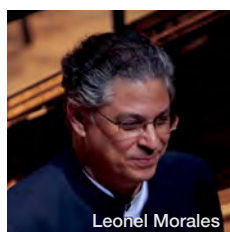
**THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Back To Neverland, For The First Time

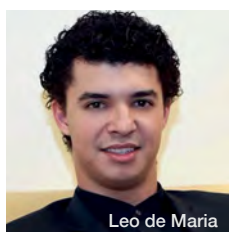
All children, except one, grow up.” So begins “Peter Pan and Wendy” by J. M. Barrie, the Scottish novelist’s 1911 adaptation of his 1904 play based on his time with the Llewelyn Davies boys, whom he looked after following their parents’ deaths. Among the four boys, it was Michael Llewelyn Davies who served as the inspiration for the winsome flying rascal Peter Pan, the boy who beckons the Darling children out of the window of their Bloomsbury home. Following his education at Eton, Michael studied art at The University of Paris and at Christ Church in Oxford, where he seemingly fell in love with another student there, Rupert Buxton, from an English aris-

tocratic family. At age 20, Michael and Rupert drowned together near Oxford — whether by accident or suicide remains unknown.

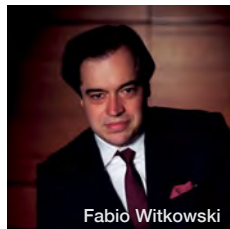
A hint of sadness has always tinged any tale of Peter Pan, and “Peter and The Starcatcher” the play by Rick Elice based on the 2000s series of novels by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, is no different, offering an origin story for Peter as a 19th-century orphan in London whose travels aboard a ship changes the course of his life forever. The Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., will perform a youth theater production of “Peter and The Starcatcher” — which premiered on Broadway in 2011 — on Friday, July 14, and Saturday, July 15.



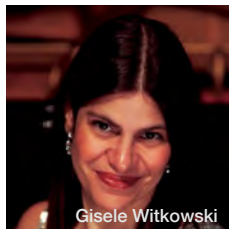
Leonel Morales



Leo de Maria



Fabio Witkowski



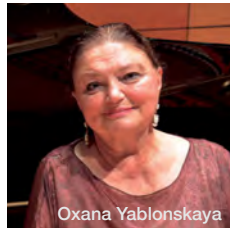
Gisele Witkowski



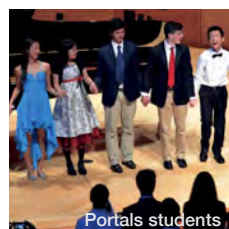
Ralph Evans



Michel Bourdoncle



Oxana Yablonskaya



Portals students

## Hotchkiss Summer Portals 2023 CONCERT SERIES

THURSDAY, JULY 20 – 7:30 P.M.  
**Leonel Morales & Leo de Maria**, piano  
*works by Bach/Busoni, Schumann, Prokofiev*

SATURDAY, JULY 22 – 7:30 P.M.  
**THE FRANK GALA CONCERT**  
**Fabio Witkowski**, piano  
**Gisele Witkowski**, piano  
**Ralph Evans**, violin  
*works by Schubert, Franck, Enescu, Milhaud*

MONDAY, JULY 24 – 7:30 P.M.  
**Michel Bourdoncle**, piano  
*works by Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Poulenc*

THURSDAY, JULY 27 – 7:30 P.M.  
**Oxana Yablonskaya**, piano  
*works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms*

SATURDAY, JULY 29 – 7:30 P.M.  
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FRIDAY, JULY 28 – 7:30 P.M.

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**HOTCHKISS**  
SUMMER PORTALS



THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## A Season for Bold Work from WAM

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Kristen van Ginhoven, WAM Theatre in Lenox, Mass., has announced its upcoming productions in its 2023 Fresh Takes Play Reading Series, a collection of performances by playwrights, actors, and artistic collaborators who carry their diverse experiences into their work as they explore the intricacy of womanhood and self



in contemporary America. WAM — “Where Arts & Activism Meet” — is a mission-driven female-led theatrical collective that hopes to engage the community while providing a space for fresh voices to be heard.

Readings in the Fresh Takes Series will include “Port of Entry” by Tayla Kingston, about a TSA in a small New England airport suddenly compelled by new laws banning the entry of Muslim passengers. “In Her Bones” by Jessica Kahkoska conjures a rural winter night in Denver where a young woman learns about the way Jewish heritage has been kept quiet in America’s mountainous west.

Trenda Loftin, a co-chair and youth engagement and arts integration specialist of the Massachusetts chapter GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), and a playwright herself will direct the first

show — the award-winning play “Hollow Roots” by Christina Anderson on Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m., at Edith Wharton’s former home, The Mount.

Performed a decade ago at the Under the Radar Festival at the Public Theater in New York City, Anderson’s “Hollow Roots,” about pushing the idea of a “post-racial society” as far it can go by depicting a Black woman attempting a quest for an almost Christ-like, truly blank person of color in the

world, remains as relevant today in its impossibility.

In an interview with “Works by Women” Anderson said, “What would it look like to be unaffected by and/or neutral about race or gender issues? As I crafted my protagonist for the solo play, I thought it might be interesting to have her search for this “person of color with no color to tell her neutral narratives.” Anderson’s single-actor show will be performed by WAM newcomer Naire Poole, who has recently been a regular fixture on another Lenox stage, Shakespeare and Company, where she played Juliet Capulet this winter as well as Elizabeth Darcy in a “Pride and Prejudice” themed holiday presentation of “The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley.”

For more on WAM and a complete schedule of events and tickets, go to [www.wamtheatre.com](http://www.wamtheatre.com)



LEFT, CHRISTINA ANDERSON, RIGHT, NAIRE POOLE, COURTESY OF WAM THEATRE



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LEO DE MARÍA BY MICHAL MOVAK

**MUSIC: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## The Hotchkiss Portals Make A Return

Following a three-year hiatus, The Hotchkiss School is finally resuming its Summer Portals Concert Series on the stage of The Katherine M. Elfers Hall in The Esther Eastman Music Center on the grounds of the preparatory school's Lakeville, Conn., campus — but first, it is heading to New York City. A select group of promising students from the Summer Portals education program are scheduled to be welcomed to historic Carnegie Hall on Seventh Avenue on Wednesday night, July 19, where they will perform a piano recital on the stage of Weil Recital Hall.

Starting on Thursday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m., the free concert series on

The Hotchkiss School campus will kick off with works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Schubert, and Sergei Sergejevich Prokofiev by Cuban-born Spanish pianist Leonel Morales, a professor of piano at The Conservatorio Superior de Castellon in Spain, who has been acclaimed at the Guerrero Foundation International Piano Competition in Madrid and won the Tasto D'Agento prize in Alexandria, Italy. He will be joined in concert by fellow Spanish pianist 28-year-old Leo de María from Madrid, a professor at the University Alfonso X El Sabio of Madrid and winner of first prize at piano competitions, including the Ciudade de Ferrol in Spain and the Grand Prix de Lyon in France.

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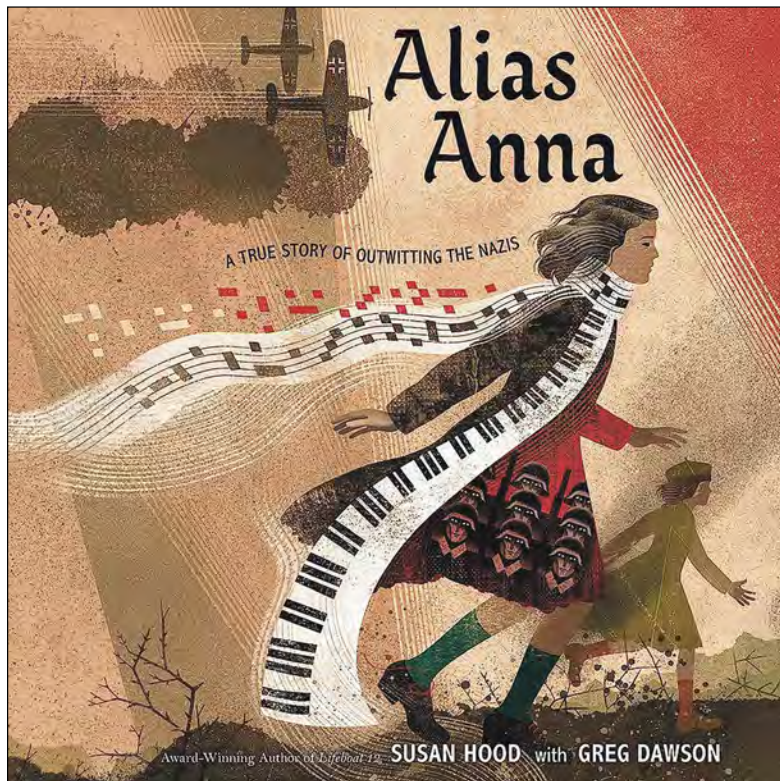


PHOTO HARPERCOLLINS

**MUSIC: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Tribute to a Survivor

*She'd hide behind  
a new identity — that was it.  
She wouldn't be Zhanna.  
She'd use an alias.  
She'd drop the Zh from her name  
become Anna —  
smaller, plainer,  
more able to blend in.  
She'd begin again.  
A for Anna.  
A for alive.*

In 1941, Nazi Germany launched a surprise invasion of the U.S.S.R., bombing buildings, executing political prisoners, and causing a mass exodus of Ukrainian evacuees who fled for refugee camps for the remainder of Germany's occupation and the duration of World War II. Among the survivors was American journalist Greg Dawson's mother, Zhanna Arshanskaya Dawson, who as a child was able to hide her Jewish identity and wound up as a piano performer

in a German variety act. She and her sister were eventually rescued by a U.S. Army Lieutenant and she was enrolled in the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. This stranger-than-fiction story was turned into a lyrical nonfiction story-in-verse for children by Greg Dawson and author Susan Hood with "Alias Anna: A True Story About Outwitting the Nazis" published last year by HarperCollins.

On Sunday, July 16, Greg and his wife Candy Dawson will appear at Music Mountain in a pre-performance talk before The Chamber Music Sunday concert to discuss the life of Zhanna Dawson, who often played at Music Mountain in the 1950s and 60s. This will be followed by a concert Penderecki String Quartet with pianist Anya Alexeyev performing selections by Johann Sebastian Bach, Béla Bartók, who protested against the Nazis in Hungary, and Erwin Schulhoff, a Jewish composer who was blacklisted during World War II.



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[hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/book-signing-2023/](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/book-signing-2023/)





PORTRAITS BY G.L. NELSON, LEFT, COURTESY OF KAA,  
RIGHT, PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN



ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## Lost Beautiful Lives

In 1923 a group of nine painters in Kent, Conn., many of whom had established new lives in the rural landscapes of Litchfield County after leaving New York City, founded The Kent Art Association, which is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary of showcasing the work of regional artists.

Currently on display at the art association's home on Kent's South Main Street is a collection of work by the founding members, including Rex Brasher, an ornithologist, and watercolorist dedicated to painting the entirety of North America's bird species. His 1926 book of work, titled "Secrets of the Friendly Woods" served as inspiration for a 2021 print publication by the Wassaic Project artist collective in Wassaic, N.Y., a curation of bird-inspired works by 29 contemporary artists.

The 100th-anniversary exhibition also features portraiture by the founding president of the Kent Art Association, George Laurence Nelson, who lived at Seven Hearths, the large, charcoal gray clapboard house that once belonged to Kent's

Colonial town founder John Beebe Jr., and now acts at the Kent Historical Society's home and museum. Nelson's romantic-charged, often life-sized oil portraits captured the elegance, wit, leisure, and even the melancholy of East Coast creatives in the first half of the 20th century. His subjects of choice were typically his own family, a recurring cast of well-dressed characters which included himself with his wife, Hermine Charlotta Redgrave, who went by Helen, his elderly white-haired mother, the British-born painter Alice Kerr-Nelson Hirschberg who was a regular contributor to the American Watercolor Society in New York, and his better-looking yet tragic brother Edgar, who died early in life.

A mighty collection of Nelson's work — which when seen all together seems to reveal scenes from an unwritten Fitzgerald novel or an American-set season of Downton Abbey — has been collected and preserved by the Kent Historical Society. Pieces can be viewed hung on the walls of Seven Hearths. They are the glamorous ghosts of the house's former occupants.

### ERIC SLOANE, NA (1905-1985)



"Cornwall Bridge" 24" x 36" oil on Masonite

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**BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

# Stories from The Heart of South Africa

In her debut collection of linked short stories, “Innards,” Magogodi oaMphela Makhene makes the case for herself to be labeled South Africa’s answer to Flannery O’Connor, whose gothic literature of the American South easily blended the grotesque with wit, everyday horror with everyday irony, utterly distinct to her region, religion, and upbringing. Makhene’s landscape for her vividly written fiction is Soweto where she was born, raised, and made, a suburb of South Africa’s Johannesburg. The name, like New York City’s SoHo or TriBeCa, is an English syllabic abbreviation for South Western Townships.

The grizzly ramifications of South Africa’s apartheid rage within the current of Makhene’s writing, her stories traveling across time and subject to give rich and varied voice to Soweto’s Black citizens whose mesmeric tales take on equal parts suffering and sensuality in the face of past colonization and current brutality.

An alum of the prestigious Iowa Writers’ Workshop MFA program at The University of Iowa, Makhene will discuss “Innards” on Thursday, July 13 as the debut guest at House of Books’ new summer program, “Salon At Swyft.” Hosted at Ore Hill & Swyft in Kent, Conn., the ticketed Salon At Swyft evenings will combine signature cocktails with intimate literary discussions with emerging and notable authors.



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## After The Gallery, Serve Some Galette

**S**trawberry and rhubarb season! Rhubarb is one of my favorite flavors to play with. Its natural earthy acidity makes it a great companion to sweet desserts and loves getting together with strawberries. In addition to cooking with local and seasonal produce, I also like to play with different types of flours and textures. At Troutbeck, we partner with a local grainery, Wild Hive, for our artisanal flours. Spelt flour in this recipe will add a nuttiness that will pair perfectly with the local strawberries, rhubarb and ginger. If you don't have spelt flour, you can use all-purpose (or be bold and try something else!). This strawberry, rhubarb, and ginger galette will delight your pallet and set the summer off in the right direction with bright colors and flavors. Galettes are deceptively easy to assemble and their presentation will wow your guests and Instagram followers. Enjoy with a scoop of your favorite local vanilla ice cream or whip up some heavy cream. Have fun, get messy, and enjoy!

### STRAWBERRY, RHUBARB AND GINGER GALETTE

2 1/8 cups (315grams) spelt Flour  
(or AP)  
2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 pinch salt  
10.5 tablespoons (150grams) butter  
1 medium/large egg  
2-3 tablespoons ice water  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons AP flour  
1 orange zest  
2 tablespoons candied ginger  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 tablespoon butter  
250 grams rhubarb

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### EATS BY EMMA

EMMA ISAKOFF

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250 grams strawberries

Method:

Preheat oven to 375F.

Cube butter and chill in the refrigerator.

In a large bowl, stir together spelt flour, ground ginger, and a pinch of salt. Add butter and mix with a dough cutter or your hands until cornmeal is the texture.

Add half a beaten egg and 2-3 tablespoons of ice water. Mix until the dough comes together.

Flatten into a disk, cover and chill for at least 30 minutes.

Cut rhubarb into 1-2-inch chunks. Slice strawberries in quarter wedges.

In a large bowl, combine rhubarb, sugar, flour, orange zest, vanilla, and candied ginger. Allow to macerate in the fridge for at least 15 minutes. Stir in cut strawberries.

On a floured countertop, roll the dough out into an even 13-inch round circle.

Leaving a 2-inch border around the edge, arrange fruit filling in whatever pattern you would like or you can make a more rustic pile in the center of the dough.

Place small cubes of butter around the top of the rhubarb.

Fold the edges of the dough over the edge of the filling.

Brush the crust with the other half of the beaten egg. Sprinkle with sanding sugar or sugar in the raw.

Bake at 375F for 35-40 minutes.

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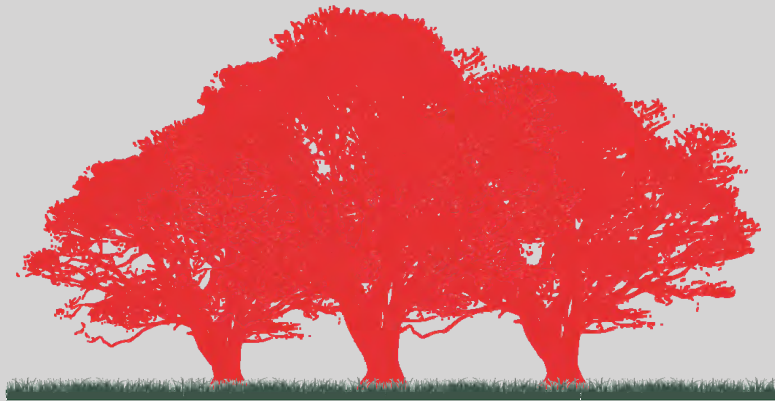
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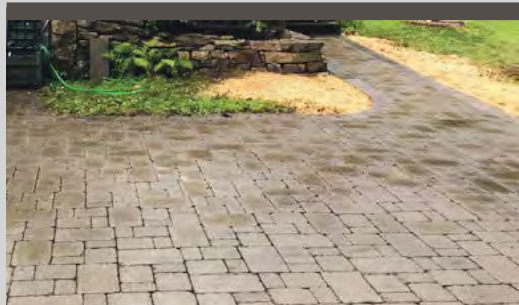
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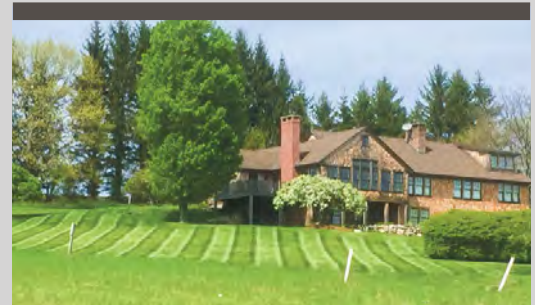
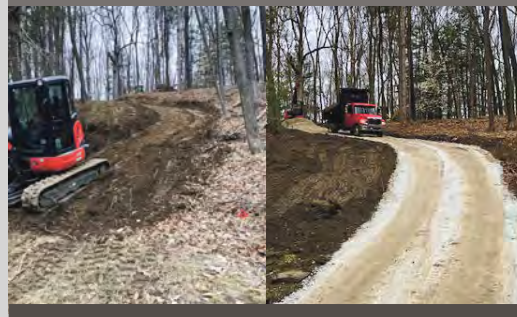
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