

# LOCAL COLOR

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## The Arts of David Rodale

Binney & Smith and Banko Family Galleries

June 2 - July 15, 2000

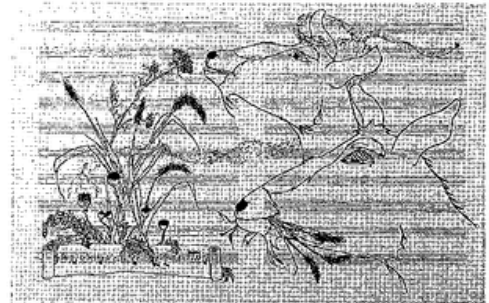
Opening Reception: June 2, 6 - 9 p.m.

## DAVID RODALE

# LOCAL COLOR

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### & THE ARTS OF DAVID RODALE



David Evan Rodale, a man of many artistic talents, is known for his theater work at the Pennsylvania Stage Company, and his musical and artistic talents. Among David's many accomplishments were his 'music scapes,' black and white ink drawings on musical score paper. These seven drawings, titled *The Amaranth Dream*, *The Accidental Destruction of Ma Ultimatas*, *Three Bean Salad: Fairies Requiem*, *The Bay of Pigs - Performing a Quick Tune-Up During Rehearsal*, *Scherzo in DNA*, *Godzilla Meets Madame Butterfly*, *Abigail - Reaching for the High Ones* and *Serenade in Bee*. He created the sketches for family and friends. The very first of the series, *The Amaranth Dream*, was created for his father, Robert E. Rodale. The last of the series, *Abigail - Reaching for the High Ones* and *Serenade in Bee*, were created for his grandmother, Ardath Harter.

David, who studied theater management in London and New York, was the

first artistic director of the Rodale Theater at 837 Linden Street, Allentown in 1977. He worked with the architects and builders in converting the Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church to make it suitable as the area's first year-round repertory house.

In 1985, David was named Director-Computer Networking at Rodale Press, Inc. The World Wide Web was just taking off in the 80's and David recognized it's potential impact on society, and the corporate world, he, therefore, implemented a communications network including an electronic mail system used by Rodale Press.

David touched many lives, he was a composer, a musician, an artist, a gourmet cook, an actor, a weaver and a humorist. David Evan Rodale, December 12, 1955 - December 23, 1985.

*Local Color & The Arts of David Rodale* features the work of artists native to the local area. While *Local Color* portrays the work of regional artists who have exhibited previously at the Banana Factory, the *Arts of David Rodale* is an opportunity to exhibit the visual artwork of a Lehigh Valley born, multi-talented individual whose creativity involved all of the arts.

*Local Color* is an opportunity to highlight regional artists whose work was exhibited at the Banana Factory in one of the juried shows held during the past two years. The diversity of content, media, style and approach depicted by these artists continues to demonstrate the wealth of talent available in the Lehigh Valley.

Looking through the work produced by David Rodale during the 1970's and 1980's to prepare for this exhibition, I was struck with his sense of whimsy as well as his ability to capture a moment in time. Even though I never knew David, the spirit of who he was emanates from the work in this exhibit. His involvement in all of the arts surely enriched the lives of everyone who was touched by him.

Strong exhibitions like *Local Color & The Arts of David Rodale* continue to endorse and further the mission of the Banana Factory - "To kindle, support and celebrate the artistic, cultural and creative spirit of the Lehigh Valley." I would like to thank Mrs. Ardath Rodale for giving the Banana Factory an opportunity to bring the work of her son, David to the public, through this exhibition.

*Diane LaBelle*  
*Director*

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**DANIEL SCOTT ARMSTRONG**

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*Songe*  
Pen & Ink Drawing  
(shown below)

*And Only She*  
Pen & Ink Drawing

*Arpeggio*  
Pen & Ink Drawing

*Untitled, Still Life*  
Pen & Ink Drawing

Until about 10 years ago Armstrong's time was divided equally between drawing and painting. Although his paintings had a far better track record of sales, he always felt he could express himself more completely with pen and ink. Armstrong was not drawn to this medium because of technical considerations, but rather, he realized that pen and ink was more attuned with his personal voice and allowed him to create more unique images than painting. It is his quest for refinement and subtlety in his images that have taken him to this level of expertise. The image has always been of singular importance to him and it is the idea, not the process, that is the prime motivator behind his work.



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**FRANCESCA AZZARA**

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*Angels As They Meet*  
Encaustic and acrylic on board

*As Dreams Unravel*  
Encaustic  
(shown below)

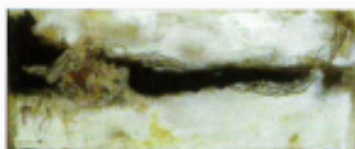
*Captive*  
Encaustic

*Secrets Hide*  
Encaustic Collage

*To Eternity*  
Encaustic and oil stick on board

For the past two years Azzara has been working in a new medium, encaustic wax. Her process involves first applying acrylic, pastel and charcoal to canvas on board. She then builds layers of encaustic paint which harden immediately. Into each successive layer she incises, scrapes and gouges into the surface and rubs in paint stick. The process is both additive and reductive, yet always spontaneous. The paintings seem to be both dense and transparent.

Though the work is non-representational and somewhat minimal, there is a tension that emerges from the energy-like build up in the surface. Her work deals with her attraction towards the spiritual. These paintings create references to emotional landscapes and ephemeral environments that are familiar yet unknown; intimate yet untouchable.



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**JUDITH FRITCHMAN**

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*Morning Dreams*  
Oil on linen/panel  
(shown below)

*Pat*  
Oil on linen/panel

*Seated Nude III*  
Oil on linen/panel

Having always spent a lot of time observing her surroundings, Fritchman sees compelling images calling out to be examined and expressed. It is the human face and form which most fascinates and humbles her; the possibility of capturing a fleeting facet of humanity unique to that individual is an endlessly exciting pursuit. Words are not the essential language here; it is the process of coaxing line into form and design which most vividly and economically reflects the truth seen in a brief tilt of a head.

The exploration constantly unfolds, opening new doors of possibility. Knowing she can study how great artists of the past have pursued similar interests is a gratifying experience, offering the potential for learning something new and using it to express her own personal images, values and emotions.



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**DANIEL LEATHERSICH**

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*Brain of D*  
Mixed media with gold leaf  
(shown below)

*Hovering Crow*  
Mixed media

*Recognition*  
Mixed media with gold leaf



## TED ORMAI

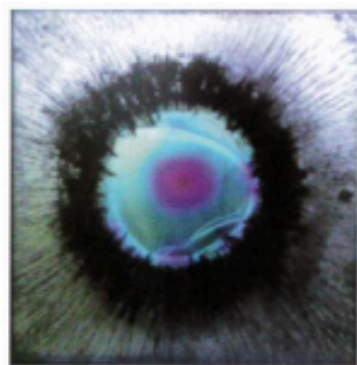
*Magnetics - Black & Gold*  
Magnetized iron and acrylic on paper

*Magnetic Mirror - Hex 1*  
Magnetized iron, polycrystal silicon, acrylic on mirror

*Magnetic Mirror - Hex 2*  
Magnetized iron, acrylic, graphite on mirror  
(shown below)

*Magnetics* is the continuation of a series of works done over the last ten years that uses magnetism as inspiration and material.

The work evolved out of the use of light, natural materials and elemental forces to produce visual evidence of unseen worlds beyond our senses. The work reflects our era as a link between the ancient human awe of natural phenomena and the technological use of the forces behind them that shape the future.



## SANDRA MARTIN RIPA

*At Play*  
Watercolor and mixed media

*Float and Balance*  
Watercolor and mixed media

*Sunrise*  
*Passageway*  
Watercolor and mixed media

*Triangular Complement I*  
Watercolor and mixed media

*Triangular Complement II*  
Watercolor and mixed media

For Sandra Ripa, color and light are the soul of painting. She is inspired by their powers of luminosity and atmosphere which creates for her a vivid sense of place and time. The paintings are imagined sites. Places she would like to see, or might have seen. Worlds far away, or close at hand.

A place. A light. A mood. An atmosphere. These are qualities Ripa strives to paint. It is a search for complex, detailed, abstract images and color harmonies to conjure a tactile world that appears and feels tangible. They are homages to the indescribable beauties she witnesses daily.



## FRANK SABATINO, JR.

*Untitled #1*  
Mixed media

*Untitled #2*  
Mixed media

*Untitled #3*  
Mixed media

*Untitled #4*  
Mixed media  
(shown below)

*Untitled #5*  
Mixed media

Frank Sabatino tries to capture the energy and mystery of primitive masks and ritual objects in simple contemporary sculptures made from hardwoods, feathers, clay and metal. Most of his pieces are small, finely finished constructions mounted in shadow-boxes.



## ROBERT WALCH

*Capitol Reef #1*  
Digital Print  
(shown below)

*Capitol Reef #2*  
Digital Print

*Carbon County Series*  
Silver Gelatin Print

Robert Walch uses photography as a way to reveal nature. He documents with the camera frozen moments, and creates an image that would require a state of meditation if the state of mind could be achieved at the physical location.

