

# At Main Line, emerging artists of obvious energy

By Victoria Donohoe

For The Inquirer

Determination to exhibit only the best Philadelphia-area art in group shows at neighborhood art centers and small museums is on the rise. One of the region's most in-demand for putting together such shows, especially those featuring new art, is Bill Scott. The distinguished Philadelphia painter/teacher happens to have roots that go deep in Haverford, where his latest project is up and running.

The 18-artist, 30-piece "Paint! Emerging Philadelphia Artists" show at Main Line Art Center is a feature of its 75th anniversary, and linked with the center's Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition sponsorship.

Surveying the newly hung show just before its opening last Friday, Scott found it "restful." So often we look at paintings once, twice, even three times and they appear always the same. But with the paintings in this show, he noted, there are different things to discover each time; we're drawn to keep savoring what we see. It's a soothing, and nourishing, experience.

The young artists Eric Huckabee, 26, and Benjamin Passione, 24, have pride of place here, their two large abstract canvases dominating a main wall.

Huckabee's oil *Pink Persimmons*, though painted this year in South Philadelphia, exemplifies all the recent work inspired by his memories of growing up on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. He seems the painterly equivalent of a serious fiction writer: What goes into the mix at the outset is what's real for him; the finished product is fiction.

Passione of Cinnaminson, in an untitled oil, expresses utter sincerity, the impetus of his painting being a spontaneous, modest, and lyrical one.

It probably would be too much to claim that the heart of the average viewer is being won to the cause of today's art by exposure to shows like this. But they surely are enjoyed and remembered by a considerable number of people. And the increasing authority of such carefully chosen displays, still too few, is reflected in their ever more adventurous character.

Figure subjects by Veronica Hanssens, Catherine Mulligan, and Mickayel Thurin are included; several printmakers, with landscapist Matthew Colaizzo aboard; Alex Cohen is the show's narrative painter. Also represented are Marc Blumthal, Michael Ciervo, Abel Dolby, Jonathan Eckel, Lauren Garvey, Peter Haarz, Aubrey Levinthal, Paul Metrisko, Tom Walton, John Isaac Williams, and Pete Zebley. The obvious energy of these young artists strikes a hopeful note, and gives us a lot to enjoy and ponder.

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Main Line Art Center, 746 Panmure Rd, Haverford. To Nov. 23. Mon-Thu 10-8, Fri-Sun 10-4. Free. 610-525-0272.

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[http://www.philly.com/philly/neighbors/main\\_line/20111111\\_At\\_Main\\_Line\\_emerging\\_artists\\_of\\_obvious\\_energy.html#ixzz1dz1KbSlp](http://www.philly.com/philly/neighbors/main_line/20111111_At_Main_Line_emerging_artists_of_obvious_energy.html#ixzz1dz1KbSlp)

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