



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2021

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The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum Announces

Betsey Regan: Dark Retrospective

January 28 – March 13, 2022

Artists Reception: Saturday, February 19, 4-6pm



(Woodstock, NY) - Woodstock Artists Association and Museum is pleased to announce *Dark Retrospective*, a solo exhibition by longtime Woodstock artist Betsey Regan. The show will be on view from Friday, January 28 through Sunday, March 13, 2022. The WAAM will hold an artists reception, open to the public, on Saturday, February 19 from 4-6pm.

This exhibition features a selection of mixed media paintings completed during the 2020-2021 pandemic shutdown. Themes include the objectification of women, masked society, and the American Pioneers, with the concept of constraint as the prevailing theme.

Regan reflected, "My father was a Colonel, and I made a living working for the Army. Although I didn't want the military culture to seep into my mind and my art, it did. I wanted my current work to depict the sense of frustration and entrapment I felt, but equally, to depict my overriding feelings of self-respect because I performed the tasks required to defend our nation. When the pandemic started, I continued the military theme, but this time the soldiers wear gas masks."

Regan used fresco and fabric to create this body of work, while also incorporating many other items, such as glue, ephemera, wrapping paper, trims, oil and acrylic paint, and doll parts and doll clothes. About thirty years ago, Regan began to experiment with plaster, and created a "recipe" that enables

fresco to adhere to paper and canvas. She feels that the process of lathering plaster onto paper and then sanding, gouging, massaging and scraping can both cause pain and release pain at the same time. This duality mirrors the thematic provocations of Regan's work, which suggest that systems of constraint may provide a framework for either freedom or oppression.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Betsey Regan's work has been exhibited extensively throughout New Jersey and New York for more than 40 years, at venues including Morris, Monmouth, Noyes, and New Jersey State Museums. In 1998, Monmouth University, her undergraduate alma mater, presented a ten-year retrospective of her work. In 2020, her work was shown in Chautauqua in an exhibition juried by Jerry Saltz.

Regan was born and raised in Middletown, NJ, and received her masters from Temple University in 1989. She has won numerous awards including four Best of Shows at the City Without Walls, and Best of Show at the Art Alliance and the American Artists Professional League, along with twenty other major awards. Her works are in the collections of Pfizer, Common Health, the National Guard Museum and the Quantum Group. She is based in Woodstock, NY. More information: betseyregan.com

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist Talk

February 19, 3:00pm | Solo Gallery

Betsey Regan will give a talk about her work. FREE and Open to the public.

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Woodstock Artists Association & Museum

Founded in 1919, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is a not-for-profit membership organization featuring an historic Permanent Collection of regional art exhibited in the Towbin Wing, three contemporary art galleries, a dynamic Education Program and an Archives of materials associated with artists of the Woodstock region.

General Information

The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is located at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. Gallery hours are Thursday thru Sunday from noon-5pm. WAAM is closed during major holidays. For general information please call: 845.679.2940 or visit our website at: woodstockart.org.

Images: Betsey Regan, 2021. L to R: *Gasmasks 5*, *Gasmasks 2*, *Gasmasks 4*; all Fresco on cardboard, 12" x 12".