

For Immediate Release:

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WEST ORANGE ARTS COUNCIL UPCOMING ART EXHIBIT
“3 Women...3 Perspectives”
April 28—May 28
featuring the art of Amelia Panico, Lisa Suss and Heidi Sussman

The West Orange Arts Council is pleased to announce the latest art exhibit in the Art Center Galleries--“3 Women... 3 Perspectives” featuring the art of WOAC board members Amelia Panico, Lisa Suss and Heidi Sussman. Each of the three women offers her own distinctive perspective which shows a diversity of subject as well as a wide range of process.

Located at 551 Valley Road, West Orange, on the same block as Luna Stage, the show will open on April 28 and be on display through May 28. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 28 from 5-7 pm.

Amelia Panico, WOAC board member and Rental Space and Workshop Coordinator, is a photographer who began her professional career as a medical photographer in genetic research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. During this time she gained an interest in microscopy, biology and macro-photography and developed a passion for being able to see and photograph the unseen which captured her imagination for organic and cellular patterns of the natural world.

Her images in this exhibit reflect her appreciation for how the patterns of the microscopic world transcend into the patterns seen in our natural landscape. “As we look at the magnificence of our National Parks, it is hard not to think of what could happen if our public land is politicized. There is a myriad of possibilities that could destroy the innocence and integrity of our majestic American landscape. Let us come together to celebrate, treasure and protect the grandeur of our remarkable spiritual gifts from nature.”

Lisa Suss, long-time WOAC board member, served an eight year term as its board president, and currently the exhibition coordinator of the West Orange Arts Center. She is the Visual Arts Manager of JCC of Greater Metrowest, where she is the director of the Gaelen Galleries, oversees four gallery spaces and is also the coordinator for the annual Gaelen Juried Art Show and Sale.

Lisa began her art career as a fiber artist and printmaker. She expanded her chosen media to include drawing, book arts, collage and watercolor. Her particular focus on looking at the ordinary parts of life in different ways has led her to mixed media. She often uses

collage and assemblage and frequently includes maps in her artwork. A lover of color, she primarily works on and with paper.

Heidi Sussman is a photo-based mixed media artist who combines natural and digital art media with her photographs. She experiments with various techniques and papers to create texture and mood not apparent in a traditional flat, two dimensional photograph. She teaches her various processes in her studio in East Orange as well as in workshops throughout the state including the Nancy Ori Cape May Workshops. Working to promote the arts within her community, she's been a long-time WOAC board member, where she served as board president for two years; is a member of the ValleyArts Visual Arts Advisory Board and Marketing Committee; and is involved in the New Jersey Photography Forum and New Art Group.

The pieces in this show are from a series of kaleidoscopes Sussman created from a recent collaborative project which was based on the abstract paintings of the late Jim Fuess, founder and director of the New Art Group. "As a tribute to Jim's legacy I wanted to explore and create new work based on Jim's paintings. Kaleidoscopes have always held a special attraction to me; the most subtle movement can create something new and equally exciting. The abstract patterns that form are directly linked to light and color, two components so fundamental to photography and intrinsic to Jim's art." The pieces shown here are all kaleidoscopes that were created from photographs of Jim's paintings. Some pieces are printed and matted archival inkjet prints, while others are image transfers to wooden panels with wax.

The West Orange Arts Council was established in 1998 as a commission of the town of West Orange, and has been housed in its physical location on Valley Road for nearly two years. Area artists and community leaders remain the core of this all-volunteer organization which was established to cultivate, inspire, and support the arts in West Orange. Through education, community outreach and arts programming, WOAC strives to enhance the lives of the residents of the Township of West Orange and neighboring communities.

The West Orange Arts Center is open Saturday and Sundays from 12-4 and by appointment. For further information please visit www.woarts.org.