

Gatsby in the Gardens

PERSPECTIVES ON ART DECO

10:00 AM–5:00 PM | Light Court Hallway

September 19th to 21st

Curated by Westbury Arts and Old Westbury Gardens

Old Westbury Gardens

 Westbury Arts



Experience the glamour and bold design of the Roaring Twenties through contemporary artwork inspired by the opulence of Long Island's Gold Coast. This juried exhibition celebrates the era's lavish social scene, iconic fashion, architecture, and luxury in true Art Deco style.

Old Westbury Gardens



Westbury Arts

Westbury Arts programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



**Council on
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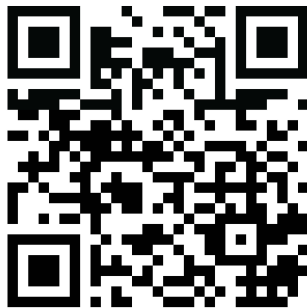
www.westburyarts.org

Old Westbury Gardens

H I S T O R I C H O U S E & G A R D E N S

Old Westbury Gardens seeks to inspire appreciation of the early 20th century American country estate through faithful preservation and interpretation of its landscape, gardens, architecture, and collections.

View our Calendar of Upcoming Events!



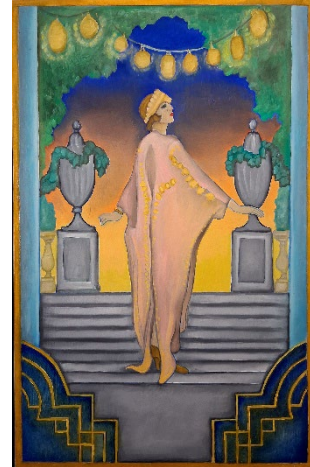
Robyn Bellospirito

A Midsummer Night with Lantern Light

oil on wood panel

17" x 11"

\$725



As an artist and art history lover who has lived on Long Island all my life, I was naturally drawn to the beautiful Gold Coast estates that still remain and are open for the public to enjoy. The Gatsby era is also a passion of mine for its design, fashion, and transition to a time of a new modern way of life. In my painting, I wanted to depict a woman in flowing evening dress standing in a lantern-lit garden, much like Old Westbury Gardens when they hold their annual Midsummer Nights. I hoped to capture the magic and the beauty of that time, in my own style.

Tamara de Lempicka, Queen of Art Deco

Oil on wood panel

17" x 11"

\$500



As an artist I have many inspirations. I have always loved the art of Tamara de Lempicka and thought I would do a portrait of her for this exhibition, in my own style but inspired by her. She has been a huge inspiration for me as an artist, and personally inspiring with our shared Polish heritage. She was quite a beauty and fashion icon of the 1920s and I consider her the Queen of Art Deco.

Artist's Bio: Artist Robyn Bellospirito has been exhibiting her art for over thirty years in galleries and museums in the New York metropolitan area, around the country and abroad. Robyn is listed in Who's Who in American Art and Who's Who of American Women and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art History from LIU Post. She has worked in some of New York's finest museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Frick Collection. Her work is in the corporate collection of 1-800-FLOWERS at their headquarters located in Carle Place, NY, and in many private collections around the country and in Europe. Aside from her art, Robyn plays Native American-style flute, hand drums, percussion, and tanpura. She lives in a funky treehouse studio in Huntington, NY.

Antoinette Blackstock



Elegance

feathers, glitter, pen and ink and acrylic on canvas
12x15
NFS



I envisioned a woman dressed for an elegant evening out, capturing the essence of 1920s fashion and sophistication.

Night on the Town

pen and ink, acrylic paint on canvas
12x15
NFS

This work captures the pulse of the Roaring Twenties, where jazz ruled, elegance dazzled, and nightlife shimmered in vibrant art deco settings.



Jessica Choudhury

Rich Girls Don't Marry Poor Boys

Acrylic

11"x14"

NFS



ARTISTS STATEMENT: This piece reflects the 1920s' opulent Gold Coast and Art Deco glamour through the pearl necklace and green light. This piece draws from the *The Great Gatsby* (1974) film, where Daisy tells Gatsby, "Rich girls don't marry poor boys," choosing Tom and his \$350,000 pearl necklace over waiting for Gatsby. The green light in my piece shows Gatsby's dream as he lives and dies waiting for Daisy. This piece holds the pain of Gatsby, as well as my own. Like Gatsby, I was delusional and waited for my best friend of 12 years, dreaming of a life together, but ultimately, he saw me as less, breaking my heart. Unlike Gatsby, I refuse to wait for love. I am chasing my own path and creating my own self-love and worth.

Patty Eljaiek

Last Lines

Sharpies, paint markers, metallic watercolor and Mod Podge on watercolor paper,

16" x 20"

\$200,00

"So, we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." I have been making tarot cards for a while now. Starting with a quote and finding card that reflects the quote and adding the images. For this art deco/Gatsby themed card, I chose the last sentence of *The Great Gatsby* as my quote and the Six of Cups, reversed to reflect the literary themes in the novel.

The reversed Six of Cups often signifies difficulty moving on from the past. It can



represent clinging to nostalgic memories, a reluctance to embrace change, or unresolved issues from childhood or past relationships. This can manifest as a tendency to romanticize the past and a resistance to facing the present and future. This is reflected in Gatsby's pursuit of Daisy and his desire to return to a happier time and his realization, that the illusion of the past is a romanticized version of truth, seen through a one-way glass of memory. The champagne glasses, graphic elements and literal interpretation of the quote in a palette of nostalgic blues, mirror the style of art deco and the superficial gaiety of a lost time.

eljaiekart@gmail.com

A Gatsby Tarot

Ink and paint

markers 18" x 24"

\$400



Imagining a Tarot card reading for Jay Gatsby, inspired by quotes and symbols found in the novel. From left to right -

The Star - The Star's light serves as a beacon, guiding one toward their destiny and purpose. "And as I sat there brooding on the old, unknown world, I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy's dock."

4 of Wands Reversed - A lack of harmony, instability, and potential conflicts, particularly in relationships or within the home. "In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars."

3 of Swords - Signifies heartbreak, sorrow, and loss. "He has lost the old warm world, paid a high price for living too long with a single dream. He must have looked up at an unfamiliar sky through frightening leaves and shivered as he found what a grotesque thing a rose is and how raw the sunlight was upon the scarcely created grass."

The Moon - Represents illusion, fear, anxiety, and the subconscious mind. It can indicate a time when things are not as they seem. Here we have the Valley of

Ashes and the all-seeing eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg. It is generally understood that Gatsby never realizes his American Dream because he was never accepted by the people he thought had achieved it. Yet he succeeded in creating the persona of Jay Gatsby, and acquired all the trappings of wealth and society, not by being born into it but by doing whatever he had to. Is this not what the myth of the American Dream describes exactly? I would argue that he was not accepted because he was in fact the embodiment of the myth.

Artist Bio

I am distracted by many things. Words, nature, emotions, a great face! All of these have inspired me at one time or another. They are wrapped up in the magical realism that is genetic when you are born on the coast in Colombia, along with the seductive nature of American Pop Culture.

My motto of “work with what you have” is not just about encouraging sustainability and reducing waste but also about incorporating the memories and prior lives of the objects I incorporate in my work.

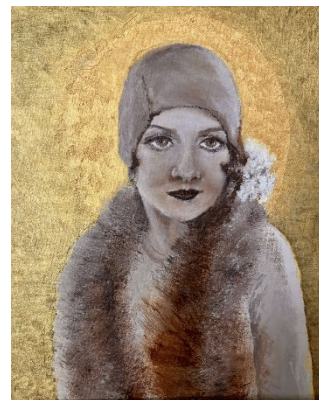
Pat Forie

The Flapper

Oil on linen

10” x 12”,

\$250



ARTISTS STATEMENT: I chose my subject of a flapper because I believe these young women personified the Roaring 20's era and the exuberant lifestyle of the time. Flappers were free spirited, independent women who enjoyed life to the fullest.

"Mildred"

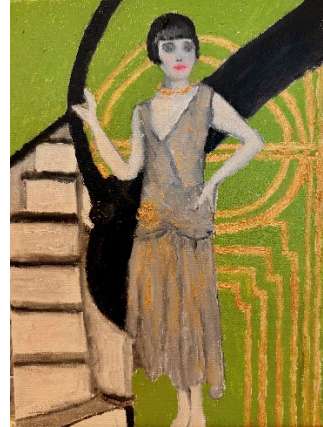
Oil on linen

6 1/2" x 8 1/2" framed

NFS

"Mildred" is a depiction of a young woman living in the '20's who is enjoying her independence and the elegance of the era.

patforie@aol.com



Andrea Gray

West Egg (silver), East Egg (Gold)

Ink and colored pencil on paper

11"x17"

NFS

Silver and gold,
new versus old.

Country or city?

Stylish symmetry.

Symbology embodied in the
Great Gatsby.



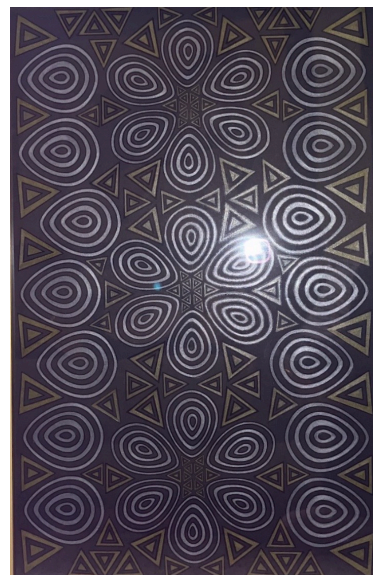
Daisy

Ink and colored pencil on paper

11" x 17"

NFS

artwithms.gray@gmail.com



Roni Murillo

Cathartic Eyes No. 3

Mixed Media on
Canvas 9" x 11"
\$300.



ARTISTS STATEMENT: In "The Great Gatsby", the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg serve as a haunting symbol of moral and spiritual decay in a society consumed by materialism. Set in the 1920s, a decade marked by excess and disillusionment, the faded billboard suggests the absence of true authority or ethical accountability. While Fitzgerald's characters chase wealth, pleasure, and personal desire with little regard for consequence, the looming eyes hint at the possibility of a higher power or judgment. Yet, because they belong not to a deity but to an advertisement, they also reflect the hollowing out of traditional spiritual values, replaced by consumer culture and spectacle. This challenges us to consider how what appears meaningful is often revealed as empty. Ultimately, the eyes embody both the illusion of divine oversight and the emptiness beneath modern pursuits, encapsulating Fitzgerald's critique of a society driven by excess, disillusioned by false promises, and devoid of lasting values.

I see echoes of these ideas in my own artistic journey. For me, art is an emotional experience, fueled by curiosity, experimentation, and the thrill of discovering the unexpected. My Catharsis Series explores the beauty and fragility of life, telling visual stories of pain, joy, suffering, and transformation that mirror the tangled contradictions Fitzgerald captures in his novel. Just as he probes the line between illusion and reality, my work seeks to uncover the hidden layers beneath surface appearances.

I work with a wide range of traditional and unconventional materials, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, oil pastels, gauze, burlap, plaster, and found objects. These varied textures allow me to build surfaces that are not just visual but tactile. I want viewers to feel the work, not simply see it. In this way, my creative process resonates with the symbolic presence of Dr. Eckleburg's eyes, silent witnesses that invite reflection. Just as Fitzgerald used a decaying billboard to critique a world obsessed with appearances, I use color, texture, and movement to create spaces where viewers are prompted to question what lies beneath the surface of their own experiences.

Havana

Mixed Media on
Paper 13" x 19"
\$500



When I visited Havana in 2014, I was really struck by the Art Deco architecture that's still there. Back in the 1920s, Havana was a buzzing cultural and architectural hotspot, full of bold geometric designs, rich materials, and a unique Cuban tropical style. It was a time of optimism and glamour, closely tied to American tourism. My grandparents used to talk about their trips to Cuba during those vibrant years, and it's clear why they remembered a Havana full of life and beauty. After the 1959 revolution, the Art Deco buildings went through tough times with economic struggles, neglect, and the harsh tropical weather taking its toll. By the time I saw it in 2014, a lot of those landmarks were crumbling and showing signs of decay. Now in 2025, even though there have been some restoration efforts, the Art Deco heritage in Havana is still really at risk, it could be lost if more isn't done to save it. It's heartbreaking to see the contrast between that golden age my grandparents talked about and the reality of what's left now. It really shows how important it is to protect and preserve this unique part of Havana's history before it's gone for good.

Alex Nuñez

For him it was like a dream from the 1920's

Watercolor

31"x26" framed

NFS



I have read *The Great Gatsby* at least 3 times. It's inspiring to re-read a novel again especially if you first read it as a youth. What you take away from it after you complete the reading is so much different as an adult. A good book can transport you to distant lands as it did to me with authors like Isak Dineson in *Out of Africa* or Ernest Hemingway in *The Sun also Rises* and Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*. My artwork is of a person (like me) that has been transported to a scene from the 1920's. The art style is something that I fell in love with for a time when researching for this illustration. In the 20's many magazines like *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New Yorker* and *Vogue* used illustrations for their covers that were highly stylized and very fashion focused. The subjects always had an exotic quality about them and were always posing and living in a world that many of us can only dream of. Thus, the gentleman seated is illustrated in a more realistic style while everyone else in that environment could have been pulled from *Harper's Bazaar* circa 1925. And of course, the scene is one of pleasure and enjoyment.
AlexNunezOnline.com

Nolly Shavzin

Flying Trees at Schloss Banrath

Watercolor and Ink on paper

13"x17"

\$750.00



Stroll Through Memory Alley at Schloss Banrath

Watercolor and Ink on paper 17"x21"
NFS



Flying Trees at Schloss Banrath

From Progressive Era to Roaring Twenties ...usher in the Modern Era with major social, political, and economic shifts setting the stage for the high exuberance, sophisticated and luxurious style and living that escalated when the First World War ended. The early 20th century was greatly dominated by Art Deco. Mystical buildings and gardens from the past influenced that era. What was in our past? What will the future bring? We readjust styles of our past by adding and innovating... the vision of greatness in the architecture of Schloss Benrath embodies the genuine aristocratic tradition that Gatsby was desperately trying to imitate. Our main character lived his best life enjoying his magnificent mansion surrounded by gardens. My flowing and whirling trees and classical flower beds in the painting are influenced by our past and hope for the future - the glowing rush movement of the trees brightens the sky. The sky over us is eternal.

As life illustrates in one of The Great Gatsby's main themes - no matter how excessive, "new money," can never authentically replicate the old-world class history that Fitzgerald's character desperately chases."

Stroll Through Memory Alley at Schloss Banrath

"Could Schloss Benrath alley be the dream of Gatsby's playground? The very bright green of the grass, symmetry of the alley running towards the sky... aligned trees rushing towards the mystical and inviting horizon ...its something very Art Deco about it... would Gatsby love to dream and play in this Schloss Benrath alley? So we are doing so in his steps..."

greeninkart@gmail.com

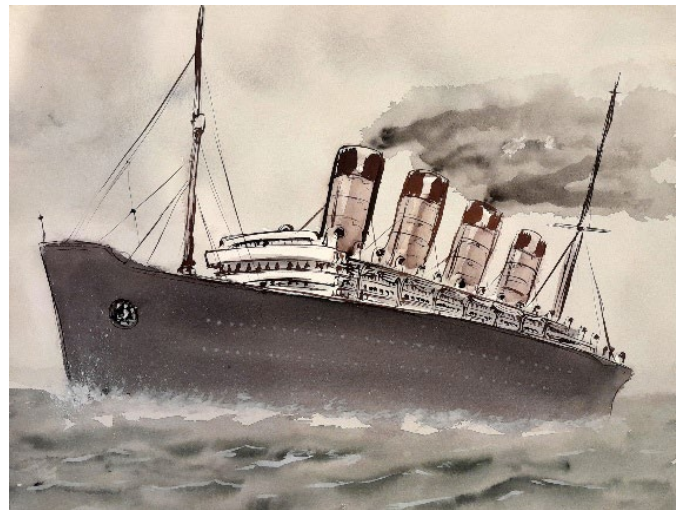
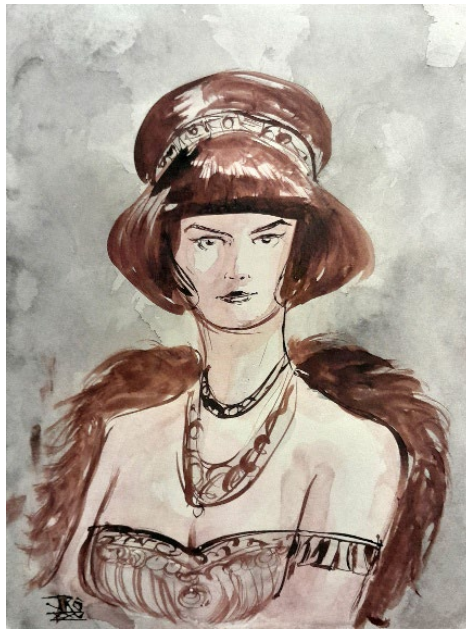
Jay Stuart

Flapper Girl

Ink and watercolor

9"x12"

\$200.



RMS Mauretania

Ink and watercolor

12"x16",

\$350.

These pieces are dedications to the era of the 1920s deco with a beautiful young flapper girl who would look like who would walk the hallways of the grand RMS Mauretania during this time period. They are done with a unique brush line work of sepia ink and assuming color palette of muted watercolors that completely complement the era of 1920s travel.

Jay Stuart is an illustrator and painter of ships, portraits, the macabre, and comic work. He has self published 7 books, and comic series and a Tarot Card collection. He teaches art, shows and sells his art around Long Island.

www.poppcockproductions.com



Westbury Arts

Together We Create Westbury

Some Upcoming Events...

www.westburyarts.org



Paint & Sip

Sept 19th 7pm - 9:00pm

Join Artist and instructor Rosalba Henao to explore van Gogh's legacy



Westbury's Got Talent Open Mic Series

Sunday, October 19, 2025
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM



Paint & Sip

Oct 24th
7pm - 9pm



Join Artist Joan Kim Suzuki and bring to life a magical Korean folk art tiger!



DRAW OF THE DEAD

OCTOBER 18th! 12-8pm!

Westbury Art's first Drawathon with artists and costumed models and props to draw!

Visit
www.westburyarts.org
for tickets
(Coming soon!)

255 Schenck Ave,
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516-400-2787



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 7th 7pm

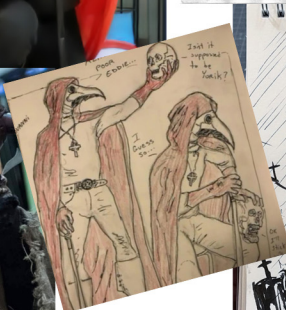
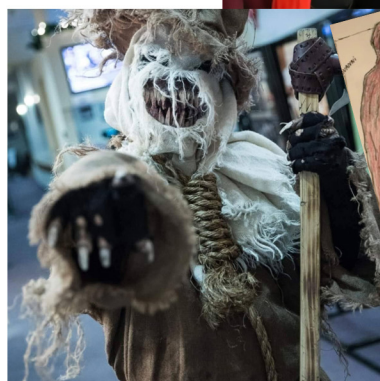
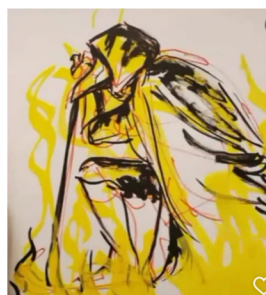
Come out for a meet & greet with your fellow members as we review what's happening at Westbury Arts.

JOIN
NOW



Hosted by Dr. Nichelle Rivers

Westbury Arts programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Westbury Art's first
Drawathon with artists
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Westbury Arts



BLICK
art materials

Featured Artists



Robyn Bellospirito
Antoinette Blackstock
Jessica Choudhury
Patty Eljaiek
Pat Forie
Andrea Gray
Alex Nuñez
Roni Murillo
Nolly Shavzin
Jay Stuart

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Buy Tickets to STARSTRUCK
A Gala to Remember!



Westbury Arts