



NATURE *Re*PERCEIVED

September 13 - October 22

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15

GALLERY PROJECT

NATURE  
*Re*PERCEIVED

September 13-  
October 22

OPENING RECEPTION:  
FRIDAY SEPT. 15, 6-9 PM

Tues - Sat: Noon-9 pm,  
Sun: Noon-4 pm

215 South 4th Avenue  
Ann Arbor MI 48104  
734-997-7012

[thegalleryproject.com](http://thegalleryproject.com)

HELEN BEVAN  
ROCCO DEPIETRO  
MATT DEGENARO  
ZACKERY DENFELD  
KEVIN EWING  
JOHN GANIS  
CAROL HANNA  
ADRIAN HATFIELD  
COOPER HOLOWESKI  
RICK LIEDER  
KATHRYN BRACKETT LUCHS  
KEELY MCCARTHY  
PAUL MCMULLAN  
ARMIN MERSMANN  
PATRICIA OLYNYK  
FRANK PAHL  
RICK PAS  
JANIE PAUL  
MARY PENN  
GLORIA PRITSCHET  
LIDIA SACHARNY  
GINA SACKMAN  
MATT SHLIAN  
JOSHUA SMITH  
NELSON SMITH  
CLINTON SNIDER  
LESLIE SOBEL  
NELE ZIRNĪTE



## ART &amp; EXHIBITS

# Disconnection from nature spotlighted

## ART REVIEW

Gallery Project once again succeeds with hot-button themes

BY ROGER GREEN  
Ann Arbor News Bureau

Continuing its admirable practice of addressing hot-button issues with inventive art, Gallery Project is showing "Nature Reperceived," a group show of works by 28 local, regional and national artists. On view through Oct. 22, the exhibit may be the most imaginative the gallery has mounted to date.

Working in traditional and, more compellingly, experimental media, the participating artists celebrate nature's glories, and focus attention on mankind's interferences. "Most of us live in an environment shaped more by meta narratives and global economics than by nature," text reminds visitors. Works in the exhibit address that disconnect, and its perils.

Adrian Hatfield, for example, superimposes images of birds on wallpaper patterned with botanical forms. The wallpaper disparages nature by reducing its complexity to repeatable, ornamental motifs. Further, because wallpaper prettifies interiors, it effectively excludes, indeed denies, the natural world outside.

Preceding Hatfield's wall-hung works are four freestanding "Grass Persons" by Matt De Genaro. These are potted plants whose vertical stalks, bound with twine, are stick figures evoking

the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" sequence in Disney's "Fantasia." According to De Genaro's statement, the anthropomorphized plants coalesce contemporary Process Art, in which the process of work's creation is disclosed, and traditional preoccupation with the human figure.

Like De Genaro, many artists use unconventional materials and techniques. Patricia Olynyk's monumentally scaled, black-and-white photographs are electron micrographs, magnifying images of human and animal sensory organs. They're combined with photographic images derived from Japanese gardens designed specifically to heighten sensory awareness.

Matt Shlian's "Strain 2" comprises two columns of folded white paper, simultaneously rising and falling with motorized help. The precision with which the columns' prismatic segments expand and contract is sublime. It imitates how proteins misfold and collapse, causing Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and some cancers.

Two installations fill the gallery's lower level. Franks Pahl's "The Secret Language of Fireflies" is a sound installation occupying a darkened space. In it, the recorded sounds of crickets and birds combine with flashing lights to evoke a nocturnal campsite.

Markedly different in its lightness is "In Honor of Human Protection II: Do You Really Know What's in a Bottle?" by Gina Sackman and Lidia Sacharny. An artistic response to environmental and drink-based toxins, the installation is paradoxically, like devil's bargains, seductive visually.



ELIYAHU GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Matt De Genaro's "Grass Person 1-4" and Adrian Hatfield's "Bower Bird Cluster" are part of the "Nature Reperceived" show at Gallery Project.

It comprises a square space whose walls are chains of transparent plastic bottles, all empty, suspended from the ceiling on wires; the twinkling bottles are alluring but may be toxic, by virtue of being non-biodegradable. At the center of the space a pedestal supports a filled, plastic bottle, spotlighted from above. Can visitors trust the bottle's liquid contents?

The most provocative work, by Zackery Denfeld, is a software program titled "A Corporation is Not a Tree (Yet)." Displayed on a monitor, the program is aimed at identifying and "saving" colors from privatization by corporations.

Besides the above, the exhibit includes many estimable works

in traditional styles and media. Noteworthy are Rick Pas' paintings of birds in urban settings and, more especially, Nele Zirnite's poetic engravings, reminiscent of Odilon Redon's proto-Surrealist visions.

But the experimental works are the most exciting, and most appropriate to the exhibit's topical concerns. Score another success for Gallery Project.

Gallery Project is at 215 South Fourth Ave. Hours are: noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 734-997-7012 or access [www.the-gallery-project.com](http://www.the-gallery-project.com).

To contact Roger Green, call 734-994-6955 or e-mail [rgreen@aa-news.com](mailto:rgreen@aa-news.com)