



Liarts

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Island landscapes, but not the usual



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When word got out about the Islip Art Museum invitational, Long Island artists got busy. More than 185 submitted works on the theme articulated by curator Carole Jay: "work that considers Long Island landscapes in an innovative way."

Competing for space in the museum's four galleries, the field had to be pared to the works of 73 artists — eclipsing the museum record of 65 for a single exhibit. "I hate playing God," says Jay, former curator for the Art League of Long Island gallery. "I had to reject a few just because they were too large. I tried to keep it fresh with abstract and conceptual work, not just

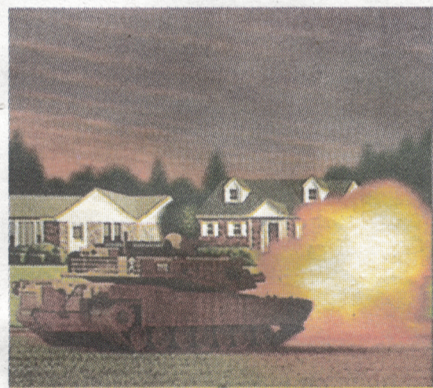
the usual water scenes we're used to seeing in Long Island landscape shows." Judging from a preview, Jay succeeded in keeping the "My Long Island" exhibition, which runs through the summer, as fresh as she intended. A few of the more unusual works:

WHAT "My Long Island" landscape exhibition
WHEN | WHERE 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, through Sept. 6, at the Islip Art Museum, 50 Irish Lane, East Islip. Reception July 26
INFO Admission \$3 (suggested donation); islipartmuseum.org, 631-224-5402

PETER DRAKE, "Siege of Syosset"
Drake turns a typical suburban housing tract landscape into a war zone as a tank fires on a single-family home in a window-size acrylic with a fire-burst red and yellow sky.

SUSAN KIRBY, "16 Shells to Maturity"
We're not sure what the title means, but we were intrigued by her layering of seashells over an array of TV remote controls arrayed behind panels of a battered window.

A still from Chris Coffin's video, "Water Drawing With Lobster Pot Buoys," top; below, "Siege of Syosset" by Peter Drake, at Islip Art Museum



ILENE SUNSHINE, "Large Tree Drawing"
It's more of a mixed-media construction featuring what looks to be bare sapling tree branches. And we like the name Sunshine for a landscape show.

DIANE LENNEA, "Clouded (Cloud Machine)"
Her pigment print photographic triptych makes a strong environmental statement with its smokestacks in the center panel flanked by clouded, burnt-orange skies.

CHRIS COFFIN, "Water Drawing With Lobster Pot Buoys"
The rainbow string of buoys is heaped on the floor below a video screen as we watch a swimmer towing the buoys out to sea, winding them in varied configurations that compose line drawings, including one that resembles an outline of Long Island. We got tired just watching the swimmer. Don't be frightened by the word "conceptual." There also are several works evoking familiar scenes, such as Sherry Pryor's quilt rendering of "Cap-tree Bridge" and Anthony D'Avino's "Cedar Beach," a 1983 oil on canvas featuring a family scene. Yeah, we've been there.