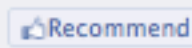



Human Spirit' art show celebrates resilience of 9/11 survivors and honors anniversary

BY [Tanyanika Samuels](#)
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

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Richard Harbus for News
Lisa Cooper will show the 'Human Spirit' exhibit at her Riverdale gallery through Nov. 5.
When Lisa Cooper reflects on 9/11, it is the resilience of mankind that resonates the most.

Cooper, who owns the Elisa Contemporary Art Gallery in [Riverdale](#), is celebrating that inner strength with an art show that also commemorates the 10th anniversary of the terror attacks.

"Human Spirit," which opened this weekend, features five artists from across the nation whose works have been influenced by the events of Sept. 11.

"We are trying to honor the ability to persevere when everything has changed around us, the way 9/11 changed everything," Cooper said.

The exhibit includes 14 paintings and ink drawings, some offering powerful, contemplative imagery.

Abstract artist [Connie Firestone](#) is showing two pieces from her "Guardian" series, in which she layers acrylic and metallic paints on blackened canvases to create almost spirit-like figures.

[Firestone](#) remembered watching the events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfold in "broken-hearted shock," then going to her studio to paint.

"[I was] crying and painting for 10 solid hours," said Firestone, who lives in [Hawaii](#).

"I think I was trying to create guardians for the world."

For artist [Daryl Zang](#), the terror attacks reinforced the importance of family.

"I know being pregnant at the time influenced my decision to be home with my son," she said.

"Several years later, when I picked up my brushes again, my early paintings were solely focused on him."

She has three pieces in the art exhibit, including "Bubbles," which features her son, Fritz.

The other artists in the show are [Krzysztof Pastuszka](#) of [Brooklyn](#), [Ray Donley](#) of [Austin, Tex.](#), and [Michael Barletta](#) of [Syracuse](#).

Cooper hopes that the "Human Spirit" exhibit will help put a face to this time in history and celebrate all aspects of humanity.

"For me, this exhibit is about honoring the 10th anniversary and paying tribute to the stories and the impact it had on all of us," Cooper said.

"Human Spirit" will run through Nov. 5 at the Elisa Contemporary Art Gallery, 5622 Mosholu Ave.

A special reception is slated for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29. For information, visit the website www.elisacontemporaryart.com.

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