

## ART

# LAST CHANCE FOR FIVE SHOWS IN ONE

## Hurry to see diverse exhibits at Hudson's John Davis Gallery

By Amy Griffin

Hudson

This weekend is the last weekend to catch five distinct and engaging solo shows in one gallery in Hudson before they close. Six months out of the year, John Davis Gallery on Warren Street is an intimate space, perfect for one- or two-person shows on the main floor and basement. When spring comes, however, the gallery opens up the back door and increases its size substantially, as the backyard and carriage house are also exhibit spaces.

A four-story 19th century structure, the carriage house is a raw space with small rooms where artwork has been installed. With low ceilings and steep,

narrow stairs, the space might not seem ideal for art. It is intriguing in its own right, yet it doesn't compete with the art, which fits right in. Fittingly, in one way or another, several of the artists currently showing address space and perspective in their work.

Dawn Clements, an alumnus of the University at Albany MFA program, has been given both floors of the main house. In gouache, watercolor or Sumi ink on paper, Clements gives us observations from her kitchen table: cut flowers in vases, fruit with the produce sticker still attached, candy wrappers. The paper is folded, roughed-up, sometimes extended by more paper taped on to the original, all of it suggesting a process in which art is fully integrated with life. It's as if she paints at her kitchen table until its time to make lunch, then folds the paper and shoves it between the cookbooks until she can work on it again. On the paper, around an exquisitely rendered hyacinth in a pot nestled inside another flower pot, are scribbled notes, perhaps thoughts that have come up that the artist doesn't want to forget while working. The still-lives are in various states of completion—she chooses what we'll notice. We see her kitchen from her perspective. The suggestion of the moment is more important than any kind of allegiance to realism, though her painting and drawing chops are never in doubt.

Isidro Blasco, whose early training was in architecture, plays with space and skews perspective. His large-scale sculpture in the garden will be the only piece to stay up past the exhibition closing date. It is an imposing plywood house-like construction, some parts painted, some not. It looks almost like a playhouse, but there's no real entrance. Made up of distorted angles and tilted walls, it's a house, deconstructed. The artist, whose other works on the first floor of the carriage house are all photo-based constructions, says in his



Photos provided by John Davis Gallery  
"Hyacinth, Camellia and Sugar Egg" (2014, watercolor on paper) by Dawn Clement.



"Paper Flowers"  
(2014, watercolor on paper) by Dawn Clement.

### On Exhibit

"Dawn Clements," "Isidro Blasco,"  
"Christine Hughes," "Kristen Rego,"  
"Saskia Sutherland"

- **Where:** John Davis Gallery, 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson.
- **When:** Through June 21. Hours: Thursdays through Mondays, 11 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Info:** Free, johndavisgallery.com or 518-828-5907

statement that this sculpture also began in photos. Based on photos he has taken in all the different homes he's lived in since he moved to New York in 1996, the piece reflects the way photos only tell part of a story. The walls of several different spaces butting up against each other results in a new, uninhabitable space.

His photo collage/sculptures are fascinatingly detailed sculptures onto which he affixes photographs or fragments of photographs, creating three-dimensional distorted perspectives. For six of these, he has created circular fish-eye views of cities built onto structures that resemble

camera apertures. He doesn't just stitch together panoramic photos, but builds them out toward the viewer. One large piece resembles a stage set and throws the viewer's perspective off completely with sections of floor that rise up and stairs that recede into the sculpture.

The rest of the carriage house contains paintings and drawings by Christine Hughes on the second floor, works on paper and paper bags along with collage on the third floor Kristen Rego and plaster and ceramic sculpture by Saskia Sutherland on the fourth floor.

Although Davis has an interesting program of artists throughout the year, the increased space in the warmer months allows him to expand it. Dawn Clement and Isidro Blasco, in particular, provide an excuse to visit sooner than later.

► Reach Amy Griffin at [1amygriffin1@gmail.com](mailto:1amygriffin1@gmail.com)