

**“ABSTRACTIONS AND DISTRACTIONS”: NANCIE GUNKELMAN EXHIBITS  
PAINTINGS AT PLAINSBORO LIBRARY GALLERY**

*Plainsboro Public Library – January 2018* –This January brings artist Nancie Gunkelman to the Plainsboro Library Gallery with a colorful collection of oil paintings. The artwork includes abstracts and semi-abstracts that are inspired by her world travels. An art reception, open to the public, will be held Sunday, January 21, 2 – 4 pm. “Abstractions and Distractions” will be on view January 6 – 31.

Gunkelman has a special interest in traditional world cultures, often depicting scenes portraying life in developing countries, paying homage to the dignity of ordinary people who are struggling to survive. Inspired by the intensity of colors, light, patterns, and decorations of Africa, these themes often emerge in large colorful abstract oils.

A trained medical illustrator, Nancie Gunkelman began her career at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Hospital. She later served overseas in the Peace Corps, designing educational materials for the Medical Training Center in Nairobi, Kenya. She continued working on health education programs for the United Nations and non-profit organizations in Jamaica, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Nigeria.

Since the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in 2011, she has curated painting and photography exhibits to celebrate the joys and challenges of international service.

She serves as Cultural Arts Commissioner for Monroe Township, bringing in cultural events such as concerts, lectures, juried art shows, dance programs, community theater performances, and operas.

Gunkelman has exhibited internationally, at venues including The United Nations Headquarters, New York; The U.S. Information Service in Gabon, West Africa; The Jamaica Art Institute in Kingston, Jamaica; and Gallery Matatu and the East African Women’s League in Kenya.

Her local/regional exhibitions have been held at Rutgers Art Library; Douglass Library; Georgian Court University; Howell Living History Farm; Monroe Township Library; Educational Testing Service; Artworks; Princeton University Club; Philadelphia Sketch Club; Grounds for Sculpture; Blazing Star Cultural Center, Carteret; and D and R Greenway's Johnson Center.

The Plainsboro Library is located at 9 Van Doren Street, Plainsboro, NJ. Hours are 10-8:30 Monday - Thursday, and 10-5 Friday – Sunday. For more information, call 609-275-2897.

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