

ARTS & LEISURE

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FRIDAY,
JUNE 16, 2006



GARY JUNG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

West Side celebrates with art

West Side Presbyterian Church opened a bright new art gallery last weekend. See D10

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10 Gallery opens with splashes of color

BY EILEEN LAFORGIA
Staff Writer

Music at West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood has always been a way of touching and embracing the larger community; the opening of their new art gallery will extend that invitation. "Painting is another dimension of spirituality," said artist Lucy Janjigian. She hopes her exhibit "Journey to Resurrection" will open people's eyes and hearts to Jesus' Passion during Holy Week. The official opening of the Community Gallery was on Saturday, June 10, when 600 people came through.

"We didn't have an appropriate place to do an art exhibit in the old building," said Dru Pierce, a member of the Project Management Committee. The architect, Herbert S. Newman, spoke with members of each ministry during the initial phase of the project programming. The Worship and Music Council suggested a sacred space to show creativity should be added.

Newman described his inspiration for the new church in the dedication booklet: "The light which filled the ruin and the sense of the sky and the neighborhood that were exposed by the fire led to our design approach of layering and filtering light into the sacred and secular spaces of the church. In the sanctuary the natural light animates the stone walls by allowing the light to brush against them. In the glass chapel the light is filtered through screens; in the new gallery the ceiling is all glass to convey the sense of openness to the sky."

The gallery room was conceived by the architect to join the sanctuary building with the Christian Education Building - to act as a buffer between the sacred space and the education building. Pierce said, "It's an opportunity to showcase art in a welcoming aesthetic space. It's been my life for four and a half years - the hardest work with the greatest personal reward." She described the gallery as "A lot of light and layered tones." She has lived here in Ridgewood for 13 years and has been involved with West Side Presbyterian Church.

Lucy Janjigian felt honored to be chosen to display her 36 acrylic paintings, "Journey to Resurrection." Her dramatic acrylic paintings are semi-abstract, and cubist. "It's more than artwork - it's spiritual," said Janjigian. Her paintings tell the story of Passion Week. "Passover/Last Supper," "The Sale," "Judas - Moment of Betrayal," "Judas, The Identification," "The Rooster" (that crowed when

Peter denied knowing Christ), "Tearing of the Veil" (in the temple) was portrayed in four paintings. "Crosses in Abstraction," "Mystical Tree," and "Old Rugged Cross" are abstract paintings.

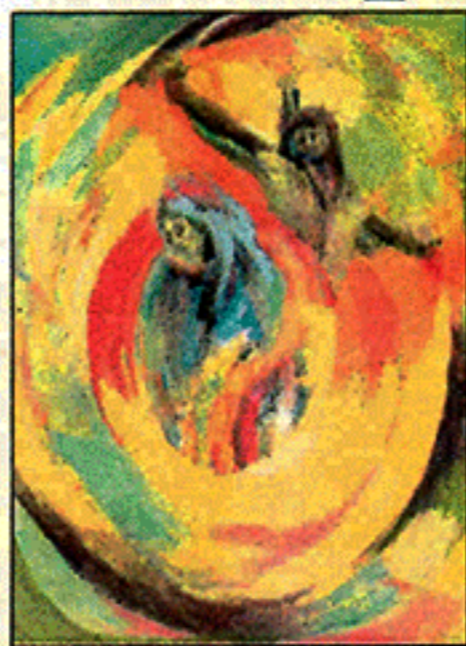
Janjigian is a member of the West Side Presbyterian Church community, though artists not connected with the church are also eligible to display their artwork. "Journey to Resurrection" DVD has been translated into Armenian and French, and is being translated into Korean and Arabic. This body of artwork DVD was shown in France this Lenten Season where the artist was present at its showing

in churches in Paris and Marseilles. The video was shown to church groups around the country, from Florida to California, in Jerusalem the Anglican Bishop showed it to his Christian Arab community, and in the Philippines it was shown to the Sisters of St. Francis, as well as showings in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Jerusalem-born Janjigian calls "Painting my passion." She is a noted and widely traveled painter, muralist and sculptor. Of Armenian descent, she came to the United States in 1952, and received a BA in Biology from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio and her MS in plant ecology from Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. She has studied art at the Art Students League and the Stacy Studio workshop in New York City. Listed in "Who's Who in American Art" her work was critiqued by Sean Simon in Artspeak: "The strength of her expressionistic and cubistic technique and her use of vividly contrasting colors heighten the starkness of her graphic power. One-Person exhibitions include: Valley Hospital; Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown, Mass.; Emory University; Felician College; Convention Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.; Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ. Her work appears in: The Armenian Library and Museum of America; American Missionary Association of America, Paramus; Armenian Evangelical Union, Fresno, Calif.; St. Leon's Armenian Church, Fairlawn; Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon; and Mekhitarist Museum, Vienna, Austria. Janjigian has also created a series of paintings on The Uprooted, The Homeless and On the Edge, which coincided with the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

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Eileen LaForgia's e-mail address is laforgia@northjersey.com



"Glory of Crucifixion"



"Old Rugged Cross"



GARY JUNG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Lucy Janjigian poses with her painting, "Tearing of the Veil - Freedom."



"Passover/Last Supper"