

**PRESS RELEASE: TENAFLY NATURE CENTER'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ART COMPETITION,  
DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2011**

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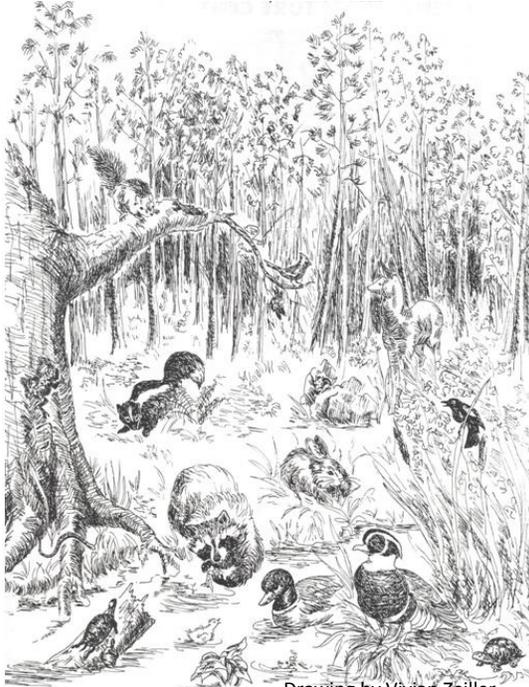
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**PHOTOS ATTACHED;**  
**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE**

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Keynote Event: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Competition*



**Make a “Natural Connection”: Call for Submissions  
Tenafly Nature Center’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Competition**



Drawing by Vivian Zeiller

**(Tenafly, NJ, April 14, 2011)** Artists often remind us of our close connections to nature. Not only do artists use materials that come “directly from nature: clay, pigments, handmade papers, even the hairs of our brushes,” noted Jill Barratta, local artist and juror for “Natural Connections,” TNC’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Competition, but it is “so inspiring that we can only express or transfer our passion for nature into a painting, sculpture, pottery or written word.”

Tenafly Nature Center offers an abundance of natural forms—flora and fauna, wetlands, forest, and open vistas that have inspired artists for decades. Tenafly Nature Center invites artists of all ages to make artistic connections with nature by participating in TNC’s “Natural Connections” Art Competition. The only submission requirement is that artwork must be inspired by the Tenafly Nature Center. Submission deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Competition organizer and artist Mikel Glass encourages everyone to explore their connections to nature through art. Those who are willing to try will find that “all of the questions about how to make art have answers encoded in the natural world. Our very sense of equilibrium is established by the horizon, our understanding of verticality informed by trees, the wonder of life reflected in the majesty of the mountains. We learn our sense of volume by looking at the things around us.”

Gregg Emery explains how he turns to the natural world for inspiration: “It is beauty that I seek. Inspiration for color comes from the world around me...movies, the color of an amazing sunset, water in its many translucent layers, a cornucopia of color in a storefront....for me all of these are riveting events . . . He “bring(s) to the canvas is a smaller version of the larger relationship I have in the natural world. I am never sure how the paints will truly work together. My quest is to be perfectly human which is ultimately imperfect.”

Those who observe the natural world will understand why so many artists find inspiration in Nature, “Nature is the laboratory from which our concepts spring, the resource from which we obtain our materials, the model that we look at to hone our craft,” noted Mikel.

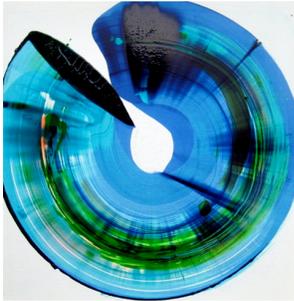
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He has selected a jury of local artists to judge entries in four categories: Painting, Drawing, Sculpture and Photography. Prizes will be awarded to winners in four age groups: Elementary School, Middle School, High School and Adults, in each art form. Jurors include three working artists and a gallery owner.

Meet the Jurors for **"Natural Connections"**, at Tenafly Nature Center's Art Competition:



**Jill Cliffer Barratta**, MFA, is the artist-in-residence at Tenafly Middle School and instructor at The Art School at Old Church in Demarest. She currently focuses on printmaking.



**Gregg Emery**, MFA, teaches visual arts and serves as art history chair at the Dwight-Englewood School. His work is included in numerous private and public collections including the permanent collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art.



**Mikel Glass**, MFA, is a narrative realist painter, who lives in Tenafly and works in New York City. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group shows around the globe, as well as in various national publications. "Art, at its best, provides fodder for thought. It is my hope that my work acts as a catalyst for this process."



**Arielle Mark**, art collector and owner of the Mark Gallery in Englewood, has a true passion for fine art, and a genuine desire to make fine art accessible to everyone. After 12 years practicing art law and international business law Arielle to embark on a career in art, using her training in art history at the Sorbonne and arts management at New York University and the New School.

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