

Pleasant Valley Surrounds...

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Spring keeps us guessing on whether it has arrived after all or it is really just winter hiding in sheep's clothing once and again. Our neighbor up the way, Punxsutawney Phil, was no help either. The Mendez artists of Pleasant Valley Studios are opening their spring season early this year anyway. The three are a "Triptych" and are presently showing at the Washington County Arts Council Gallery, 14 West Washington Street, in Hagerstown, MD from 2 April until 28 April with an opening reception on Saturday, 9 April from 6-8 pm. The Pleasant Valley Studios Spring Art Show will be held in our Pleasant Valley studios in June as usual. This year it will be on 11-12 June from 1-8 pm on Saturday and 1-7 pm on Sunday. We hope to see our constituents at one of these occasions and they can also help celebrate the high school graduations of our two resident seniors, Kace and Jesse.

Jonna Mendez is once again inspired by spring. She has that sparkle in her eye as well as in her shutter finger. We also hear murmurs of "enhanced digital" and the "bus ride to New York City at dawn." She has been expanding her New York City suite of in much the same way as she has built her "French Post Cards-A Photographic Journey" body of work and very popular photo book. She learned her photographic skills as a clandestine photographer at CIA where she served for 27 years. She has been creating fine art photography at the Pleasant Valley Studios for 20 years now. Who knows what new spring related photographic projects she will complete before the kids graduate and she gets busy organizing the Spring Art Show on 11 and 12 June 2011 at our Pleasant Valley Studios.

Toby Mendez hasn't taken a winter or spring break of late. He and his assistant are working overtime, on a parade of monuments. Most recently he installed a heroic scale tribute to Danny Thomas at St. Judes Hospital in Memphis, TN. It shows Danny interacting with three of the children helped thru the hospital. Next in Toby's queue is a tribute to John Hanson, an eight-foot bronze destined for the courthouse in Frederick MD. Work on the Veteran's Memorial for Silver Spring, MD is underway in Toby's studios. Many works have been dedicated within the past year. Toby is a graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has been creating sculpture at his studios, for over 25 years. Several of his studio pieces and his public works are shown at the Hagerstown show and at the Pleasant Valley Studios.

Tony Mendez has dodged the assaults of cabin fever once again this winter with the help of his family, friends and the safe haven of our home and in the art studios of Pleasant Valley. Some of the works now on display were created this past season but Tony is a retired CIA officer and a life-long fine art painter with a body of work spanning more than fifty years. Besides his paintings Tony and Jonna have written books about their exploits as intelligence officers. One of their books is now being made into a movie produced by George Clooney and directed by Ben Affleck. Ben will play the part of Tony. Come talk to the artists about all of their projects at Hagerstown and at the Pleasant Valley Studios Art Show on 11-12 June 2011 .

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