



Bill Murphy's "Latourette" (April 27, 1975 oil 18 x 24) is part of "The Ballad of Staten Island," up through Jan. 10 at the Wagner College Gallery. *(Courtesy the artist)*



Staten Island Advance

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Bill Murphy's 'Ballad of Staten Island' exhibit opens with reception Nov. 8 at Wagner College Gallery

GRYMES HILL — Wagner College Gallery will host an exhibition by Staten Island-based artist, Bill Murphy, entitled "The Ballad of Staten Island." There will be an opening reception at the gallery on Nov. 8 from 5-8 PM, which is free and open to the public.

The exhibition will run from Nov. 7 through Jan. 10, 2014.

"The Ballad of Staten Island" will consist of drawings, paintings and prints that span five (1971 – 2013) decades. The exhibit's theme, the Staten Island landscape, is also its subject. Having been sold to private collectors or taken from the artist's own collection, many of the images in "The Ballad of Staten Island" have never been on public display before.

Of the exhibition Murphy has written: "A curator of a local museum once told me that she had asked numerous visitors what the most notable things about Staten Island are. The

answers were the Ferry, the Mall, and the Fresh Kills dump, in that order. All three of these things show up in this exhibit, though you will have to squint a bit to find the Mall. But this is not a travelogue. It is my own version of what's important here – or at least what's important to me.

“Curating this exhibit has not been easy. The space is not large, and there were about 90 pieces to choose from. I tried to make choices that would say something about my own artistic development as well as the nature of a place I have attempted to not only capture on a plate or drawing-pad, but (insofar as it's possible) to understand.”

One of the exhibit's highlights is the 48 x 70” charcoal drawing of “From Silver Lake,” the image from which Murphy created his etching of the same name. (The etching is in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress, among others.) This large work has never been publicly displayed before. It shows Victory Boulevard as it descends toward the Saint George section of Staten Island, with the World Trade Center in the distance.

Besides the Library of Congress, Murphy has work in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the British Museum, the Baseball Hall of Fame, The Staten Island Museum, The New York Historical Society and many other public collections. He has exhibited in the Old Print Shop Gallery, the National Academy of Design, the National Arts Club, and many other private and public galleries.

Murphy is a Professor of Visual Art at Wagner College.

More information about the artist can be seen at his website, www.aburninglight.com.

The Wagner Gallery is located at Wagner College, 1 Campus Road, Staten Island. It is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 11 – 4 PM and Thursday evening until 9.

For more information on this or other exhibitions at Wagner College, please call the Wagner Art Dept. at 718-390-3192.

This exhibit is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and is administered by Staten Island Arts.