

...gone WILD
mischief, monsters, & mayhem

October 4 – November 8, 2013

Inspired by the season and the 50th Anniversary of Maurice Sendak's classic children's book Where the Wild Things Are, River House Arts is taking a walk on the (playfully) wild side.

John Elkerr

Through my work I am reaching for absolute freedom of thought.

John Elkerr has been creating art and rebelling against "being sensible" for as long as he can remember. (In his youth he once initiated a campaign against "being on time" by wearing several wrist watches at once - each with different times) Still, he managed to complete his BFA with honors from the University of Michigan. He has exhibited throughout the U.S. and Europe with some of the most notable figures in Contemporary Raw or Intuitive Art. John's work is represented in numerous private and public collections, including the *Musee de creation franche* in Belges, France. John Kerr currently lives and works in Dexter, Michigan.

Andrei Rabodzeenko

My works are an attempt to connect with the unreachable, subtle side of being, something that is beyond a verbal vocabulary. The subtle can't be born and can't survive in the reality of concrete questions and immediate answers.

Andrei Rabodzeenko excels in a variety of media including painting (oil, tempera, watercolor), drawing, sculpture, illustration, and etching, and he has participated in numerous group and solo art shows in the US, Canada, UK, and Europe. Before emigrating the U.S. in 1991 and pursuing his studio art career full time, he worked as an architect and interior designer in Leningrad, having studied at the Mukhina School of Design there. Prior to design school, Andrei attended the Tashkent School of Art in Uzbekistan where he studied painting and drawing. Today his quietly amusing, restrained works can be found in public and private collections in the US and abroad. *Andrei Rabodzeenko's newest paintings, part of a recent series of "masterworks", will be featured in RHA's next exhibition, opening Nov. 22.*

Lauren Pfund

My fantasy world allows me to create things without the restrictions of there being a "right way." Nothing has to be perfect and everything is beautiful.

No wild show would be complete without the signature creatures of Toledo artist Lauren Pfund. Working in a small, 7th floor studio in downtown Toledo, she brings her expressive, often emotionally awkward monsters to life with masterly brush work and a keen eye for color. In art school, Lauren started off with mostly abstract portraiture of friends and family, but wanted to develop a style that was more unique, that could more adequately express her thoughts and feelings, but in a lighthearted way. It was during the preparation for her BFA show at Adrian College that she let her imagination run wild.

Cre Fuller

My name is Cre Fuller. I live and work in Ypsilanti Michigan. My one of a kind creations consist of everyday objects, repurposed and reimagined. It is my goal to bring a vintage esthetic of the future. I'm also trying to line up a good robot repair job when they eventually take over the world. Please enjoy

Steve Athanas

My work is gruff and primitive—I celebrate imperfection. Decay is change—something that we all have to face within nature. I think nature taking its natural course... there is a beauty, an element of art in that. Steve Athanas's first creative pursuit was playing with a band called Jello when he was in the eighth grade. He later went on to perform as lead singer and songwriter with several popular Toledo bands and still rocks with the renowned Homewreckers. His offbeat sense of humor, both on stage and in his lyrics, also entertains in the whimsically illustrated, nonsensical texts he calls "pomes". During his student teaching days, an art project peaked Athanas' interest in wire sculpting, which resulted in his 'cuppas' (wire cups of light). He was further encouraged when a friend's mother told him that his work reminded her of drotars—the tinkers of Slovakia—who went door to door with spools of wire to make household tools for people. This association landed him in an art exhibit at the Slovakian Embassy in Washington, DC. Since his work is decidedly rustic; Athanas favors media such as rusted wire, weathered gnarly wood, clay and rough, handmade paper.