

## fine arts

### Three distinct 'New Jersey Voices' in harmony

#### New Jersey Voices II

**Where:** Montgomery Center for the Arts, 124 Montgomery Road, Montgomery

**When:** Through Aug. 31. Hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday

**Contact:** (609) 921-3272 or [www.mca1860.org](http://www.mca1860.org)

By **JANET PURCELL**  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

On the home page of its Web site, Montgomery Center for the Arts calls itself "a gem" and that couldn't be more true.

On a recent visit, there were art-camp youngsters laughing, playing, working and creating. There were birds chirping, flowers blooming everywhere and bending over the path to the porch of the old farmhouse said to have been built in 1860.

It's a comfortable place to spend an afternoon enjoying art by

some of the region's best artists.

The current exhibit, "New Jersey Voices II," features Steve Buzash, Chris Carter and John Murdoch, whose works are so different from each other one might at first wonder why they were chosen to be exhibited together. But not for long, because each artist, in his/her own genre, has equal expertise and professionalism. Bringing them together creates a quality show.

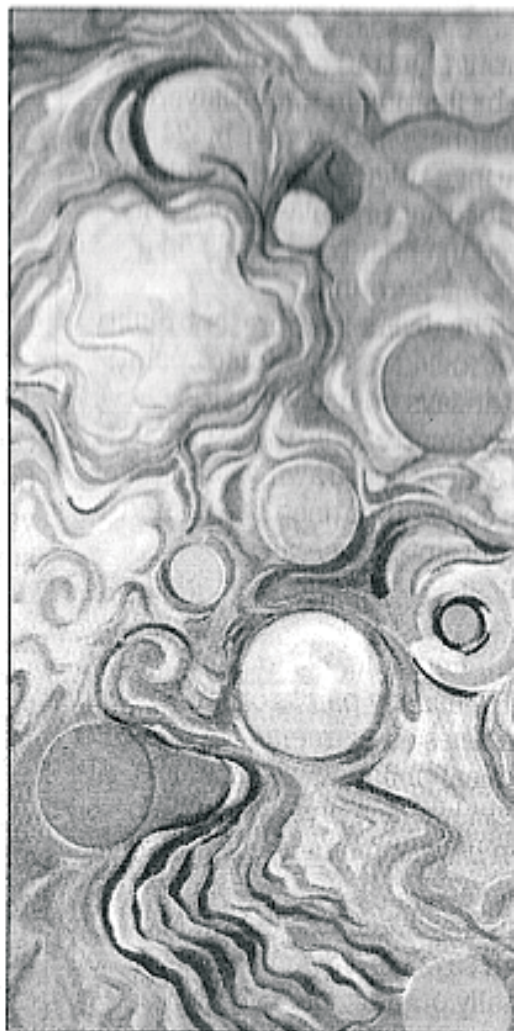
Buzash is pursuing a fine arts degree at The College of New Jersey, but don't expect to see student experimentation in this exhibit. He's painted for 10 years and, although his artist statement says he's devoting his life to finding his voice, what he's showing looks like he has already.

He's paired renderings taken from the masters and drawn in black ink with the same prints, to which he has added color. It makes for a thought-provoking and interesting grouping.

His "After Durer's Angel," for example, is seen in black and white and then with added sunny yellow to the angel's hair, which is flowing over white wings. Trying to decide which works better, I concluded the flow of yellow hair brought the image to life.

"After VanGogh's Sower," on the other hand, seems to work better in the black and white version where all the marks and seedlike grains of the image give texture. The black ink and colored pencil version, on the other hand, lights up the big yellow sun that hangs low over the sower's head, thus bringing tension as it interacts with the dark, threatening tree leaning in the foreground.

He also presents "After Fra Angelico's Annunciation" in both a black-ink version and one enhanced with acrylics. The show also includes nine silver gelatin black-and-white photographic



prints by Buzash. These are head shots of people engaged in activity. Only two are posed classic head shots. The rest look as if he told the subjects, "Stop — let me get this." They have a real moment-in-time ambiance.