

Issue 2 • April 2018 • Facebook.com/TalkArts

# IT'S ALL ABOUT ARTS

Supporting Local Arts and Culture



**seeing red**

a red cape agitates a bull, and it charges

**seeing red**

anger that contols and frustrates

**seeing red**

the color

# From the Editor:

**ART** and creativity can be an enormous catalyst for change in society. We recently witnessed the horror of losing seventeen lives in yet another tragic school shooting. On March 24, "March for Our Lives" brought thousands of citizens (mostly young) peacefully to the streets of America to demand stronger gun laws to protect our young.



Most carried hand made signs with slogans that were poignant and emotional. Let these words sink in! *Janice Williams*

- "Am I Next"
- "Save Our Students"
- "You have the right to remain silent but please don't"
- "Schools are for learning not lock down"
- "Books not Bullets"
- "One child is worth more than all the guns in the world - enough"
- "The uterus is more regulated than guns"
- "How loud do the screams have to be before you listen?"
- "Fear has no place in our schools"
- **"Students Today, Voters Tomorrow"**



Photo by Chris Lovett of BNN News  
in Roxbury, MA

## IT'S ALL ABOUT ARTS

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# My Favorite Patron Offers Art & Meditation

by Janice Williams

**R**uth LaGue, a mid-career artist seeking ways to expand her art exposure, hired me over a year ago as her publicity person. I eagerly spend my days researching opportunities to bring visibility and recognition to her beautiful and inspiring art. I label her art inspiring because it has a captivating aura of oneness with nature that moves the viewer and produces a feeling of calmness and adventure at the same time.



LaGue uses a variety of different sized palette knives and acrylic paint to thickly layer on canvas, abstract landscapes that transform real and majestic scenes. Her canvases radiate seasons, horizons, mountains, oceans, sunsets, waves, deserts, snow, rain, wind, rolling hills, lakes, grassland, clouds and more. While similar in style, each painting presents an individual and profound vision that brings the viewer to new inner personal revelations



***The Journey - 36 x 48 inches***



***Inlet - 36 x 36 inches***

and vistas. LaGue says, “My landscapes represent fragments of time that will never be again; intimate moments of communion with something greater than ourselves; quiet meditations to which all can bear witness. I am compelled to paint”.

LaGue’s background includes growing up in Alaska, where beauty and expanse dominated her daily environment. I see Alaska in her paintings, but I also see the Grand Canyon, Arizona; Glacier National Park, Montana; Death Valley, California; Niagara Falls, New York; Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina/Tennessee and Cape Cod Beaches, Massachusetts. LaGue also traveled to India, where she found a spiritual connection between her

immense childhood terrain and the passionate landscape of the spirit. To see LaGue’s work in exhibit is a virtual tour of the landscape beauty of America and the world.

Here is a recent comment on LaGue’s piece *Inlet* by Mr. Curt who is a LaGue collector and admirer, “Bogged Down - The inlet looked older when I was younger. Thinning reeds among the heather, shivering in the afternoon light. They had the look of being stubborn, desiring more than the comfort of their surroundings. Now gone, this might be the same place I once imagined as future perfect. A peaceful place where things grow and reluctantly move on.” (continued)



Recently LaGue started giving talks to a wide variety of groups on meditation and art. Using her landscapes as a tool, LaGue guides her listeners and viewers through a calm-inducing journey called “The Spiritual Landscape”. Much has been written about the health effects of meditation. People spend thousands of dollars on software, books and classes to find ways to happiness and personal peace through meditation. According to EOC Institute, “This feeling of oneness achieved through meditation results in feeling less lonely and separated, releasing a cascade of scientifically proven psychological and physiological benefits, in turn making you a happier and healthier person.”

LaGue offers a simple and cost effective option for meditating by viewing and meditating with art. Spending time with Ruth and her art is not only inspiring but joyful. Meditating with her art stretches my imagination and propels me to a higher level of personal space.

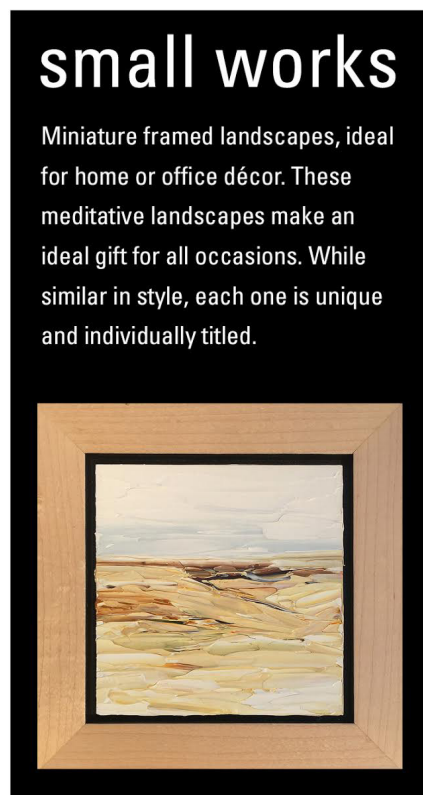
***Try it yourself, you'll like it!***

To learn more about LaGue's work visit [laguewax.com](http://laguewax.com).

Follow Ruth on

Facebook at [facebook.com/Laguewax](https://www.facebook.com/Laguewax) and on  
Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/ruthlague>.

Call Janice Williams at  
617-710-3811 to book Ruth and her presentation,  
**“Spirit of the Landscape”**  
or to have an exhibit at your location.



Miniature framed landscapes, ideal for home or office décor. These meditative landscapes make an ideal gift for all occasions. While similar in style, each one is unique and individually titled.



■ [www.laguewax.com](http://www.laguewax.com)

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# Goodness



Inspire Arts & Music's after school program HYPE (Hyde Park Youth Percussion Ensemble) - Photo by Ian Moulton

Saturday at the Strand - March 24, 2018 was a night of true inspiration. There was a fundraising concert - headlined by Grammy Award winning "Take 6" to raise money and awareness for a fabulous organization Inspire Arts and Music.

Inspire Arts and Music is a non profit organization dedicated to programs that develop and inspire youth via both scholastic and non-scholastic activities built on an Arts and Music platform. For more information visit [www.iaminspired.org](http://www.iaminspired.org)

## GOT GOODNESS?

Share your arts related goodness photos and stories with *It's All About Arts* - send to [janice@artfulgift.com](mailto:janice@artfulgift.com)







photo: John Mancini

## THE HI-END - Crank It Up!

by Curt Naihersey

To be honest, this kinda music is for more hard-edged folks than me, but when something special perks up, I'm all ears. The very first time I saw this group was less than a year ago at Sally O' Brien's in Somerville. It was early in their career, but their enthusiasm and spirited energy bristled with real Boston rock & roll dedication, which basically consists of a punkish yen for bar-band sounds combined with twitch, sincerity, and a good-time attitude. As for heritage, think of similar major outfits like The Rolling Stones, Alice Cooper, AC/DC, Eddie and the Hot Rods, or some local heroes as Aerosmith, The Nervous Eaters, The Neighborhoods, and Third Rail.

The Hi-End is made up of musicians from some of Boston's best bands of recent past with **Johnny Carlevale** (from J.C. & His All-Stars) = lead vocals, **Curt Florczak** (from B-Movie Rats and Greg Allen's Fringe Religion) = guitar/vocals, **Anthony Giordano** = bass, **Bruno Giordano** = guitar/vocals, and **Scott Sugarman** = drums (all from The Boston Swindlers). That they are able to sculpt their own identity in Boston's music scene is a true testament to their collective talents. Their 2017 debut EP, **100 Proof**, was a raw, back-to-basics blast, showcasing their sensibility, unpretentiously enjoyable tunes, and most importantly, tremendous playing - already evident, though the polish had yet to be applied to these upbeat tracks, full of imaginative, loopy edges. Crisply supporting their unique suave vocalist, both guitars soar and dive, attacking during the solo jams, whilst the rhythm section both grooves and growls, foretelling a strong desire to develop into an essential, cutting-edge outfit. (continued)

## THE HI-END - Crank It Up! by Curt Naihersey (continued)

Now, here comes their new 7-song album, **Before You Run Out of Luck**, and their improvement is immediately recognizable. Bypassing any comparisons, listening to these songs and seeing them on stage is to immerse yourself in rock & roll's glorious camaraderie. This is a mature band that will give their all - and then some - to entertain and encompass their heritage. No juvenilia, but dedicated followers of classic R&R: anything considered rebellious with spunk and style - British Invasion, 70s punk, glitter, pub rock, hard rhythm and blues, early metal, power-pop, etc. Three tunes especially - "Looking for Some Kicks", "Blood Red Lips", and "To Be Alive" - are absolute stand-outs and should be blasting from radios around the world.

I had a chance to recently meet up with them to chat about their vision. They discussed their formation for the 2016 J.P. Music Fest, which was met with great success. Scott said: "I guess we're a real band now!" and that material became their debut EP. Most of their current songs are worked out in rehearsal sessions, sharing riffs and musical themes. Johnny, who has notebooks filled with lyrics and ideas, sums up their approach: "We don't get upset with what we're doing until we've played it enough. It's always collaborative." Bruno adds: "By the time we're ready to record, everything has coalesced." Curt sums up this thought: "I don't think we went in a conscious direction so much as we kept developing the things that we felt represented us honestly and that we all enjoy playing. I feel like with the new album, we've set ourselves up with a sound and vibe that is truly us."

Their short-term goal is obviously more local shows with respectful, affirmative audience response. A recent packed show at The Midway was met with effusive cheering and support. Anthony added: "We must keep doing the right stuff - it just takes time! We wish we could have more kids showing up, though sometimes our music doesn't filter down to them. We have an upcoming show with The Nervous Eaters, who have set a high standard for decades. We want to continue on that same path." As with most groups, getting press and radio play is a constant consternation that plagues many. Rock music has been diluted as clubs close and fanzines disappear, though the internet offers great personal hope. The possibility of bringing their sound to European festivals, which honor the frenzied rock tradition, appeals to Johnny especially. One of his former rockabilly bands found success there and he hopes that might be a bright turn of events for the group. Until then, they plug on, write more stunning material, and hold their heads high. Definitely, check 'em out now before they hit that rocky road towards national prominence! Absolutely recommended!!

for further info, contact:

[www.the-hi-end.com](http://www.the-hi-end.com)

[info@the-hi-end.com](mailto:info@the-hi-end.com)



[lowbudgetrecords.com](http://lowbudgetrecords.com)





# WoW

## Words of Wisdom



*Good vs. Evil Photograph*

**JAMIE CASCIO**

jamiecasciophoto@gmail.com

[jamiecphotography.com](http://jamiecphotography.com)



*Dove Tree Photograph*

**ERIK GEHRING**

erik@erikgehring.com

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I really do think most people have the impulse to create. Many people don't pursue creative projects because they have not been encouraged, or have been actively shut down in their youth. They feel like they need to be good at something to justify their efforts. I always tell them "you don't have to be good at it to benefit from doing it, give it a try." That's been my motto for a long time and it's really worked for me.

**JULIE BURROS**, Chief of Arts and Culture,  
City of Boston

[boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture](http://boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture)

The best thing about being an artist is not the work that you produce. It is the practice of looking. The ordinary is actually quite extraordinary—miraculous, even—when you take the time to notice, consider, and appreciate it. Artists expect to see beauty, and so do we.

**MARY NEWELL DEPALMA**, Author & Illustrator

[marynewelldepalma.com](http://marynewelldepalma.com)

Instagram: mndepalma

In human evolution, the act of art-making has preceded -- practically brought forth — the very cognitive abilities that generated our symbolic thinking, knowledge acquisition and organization, consciousness, socialization, communication, and language. I call this actualizing capacity AR-Ticulation, for it concretely manifests the Dialogic Intelligence (DIN) at the core of our being as a human mind and a living kind; thus, defining my radical approach to expressive therapy, mental health, and a civilization of peace."

**HAGITTE GAL-ED**, PhD

[linkedin.com/in/hagittegaled](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hagittegaled)

Send your art WoW - Words of Wisdom to

[janice@artfulgift.com](mailto:janice@artfulgift.com)



# Multitalented Artist Larry Johnson brings comics – and seniors – to renewed life

By Mary Ellen Gambon



Some people view comic books as entertainment. Others see them as escapism, the vehicles to launch them into fantasy worlds of superheroes and faraway vistas. Hyde Park's Larry Johnson knew at a young age that comic books were a form of art. After becoming fascinated by "Alice in Wonderland," he became a comic book artist.

"Illustrations always fascinated me as a kid," said Johnson, a native of Ballston Spa, New York, near Saratoga. "I started making homemade comic books when I was about nine years old. I created a character in October of 1963 called Zooy. The first issue was produced in January 1966."

Johnson's love of art and drawing emerged during his teens, along with a love of literature. This is when he discovered "Hamlet," he said. He also further developed Zooy.



"Coffee Pot Daisies"

"I had a teacher in the ninth grade named Stephen Crane Poe, who became my mentor," he said. "He encouraged me to go to art school. During this time, I did the Zooy comic book for 71 issues over 10 years."

Johnson's interests branched out while majoring in fine arts painting at the Art Institute of Boston, where he graduated in 1979 with a Fine Arts Painting degree. AIB was an independent school at that time, located at 700 Beacon Street in downtown Boston. He became skilled at landscape painting and sketching, among other media. He mainly uses lush oils and watercolors to capture his landscapes. Yet Johnson is adept with any medium, a magician with colored and regular pencils, pastels and acrylics.

Johnson not only creates paintings, sketches and comic book series but also shares his talents by teaching the area's elderly in two unique programs. One is the Mobile Arts Program at the Blake Estates on Hyde Park Avenue near Cleary Square. The other is at the Paul Nolan Group at the Menino Arts Center (MAC). He coordinates the latter with friend and fellow Hyde Park resident Rosemarie Clinton. They met shortly after he moved to Hyde Park in 2009. "I met Rosemarie at the street fair back then," said Johnson. "That was my introduction to Hyde Park's art scene. I very much wanted to be engaged. Later I started on doing some art at the MAC with the Hyde Park Art Association." The two recently ran a show at the Hyde Park branch library entitled "Inclusive." It featured the works of at least 20 senior citizen artists using mixed media as well as area professionals. The exhibit, which features more than 50 works, will run through April.

"Inclusive" was a fitting title in every sense of the word. It embraced people of European ancestry as well as Haitian, Spanish and Caribbean cultures. Many tried their hand at art for the first time, including Geneva Kingwood, who started painting and sculpting four years ago at the age of 82. Joseph Rivera, another Hyde Park elder, is deaf and mute. He communicates with everyone through sign language, hand gestures, the written word and a smile as vivid as his electrifying paintings.

Rivera's intense orange sky served as the backdrop for an intricate bare autumn tree. It contrasted with his placid seascape painting in hues of blue pastels. "The people involved here are very enthusiastic," said Johnson. "They are quite inspired." (continued)

Multi-talented Artist Larry Johnson brings comics – and seniors – to renewed life  
By Mary Ellen Gambon (continued)

Sitting in the McDonald's, where many of his senior citizen students congregate, he gazed out the window as he spoke, as if musing. Then he looked down at a pad of paper and quickly stroked and shaded his pencil in a matter of minutes. "Does this look familiar?"

Looking down, then out the window and back, the corner of Dana Avenue sprang to life. Detailed tree branches ornately hung over the etched wooden home. "I ride a bike a lot," explained Johnson. "I like to sketch trees and buildings, especially around Hyde Park and Ashmont. "I love the stacking of stuff, the telephone wires, the branches. Did you ever notice in real estate ads how they do that? I usually do an hour at a time."



Johnson has also been involved in the creation and success of The Switch Co-Op at 21 Fairmount Avenue. In business since last fall, the gallery offers a unique panoply of artwork, jewelry, art quilts, cards and pocketbooks. It also hosts open mics, poetry slams and music nights. Combined with the electric atmosphere of Riverside Theatre Works, the upcoming restoration of the Everett Square Theatre, and the music and art parties at local eatery The Fairmount Grille, art patrons are working to turn the street into Hyde Park's "Avenue of the Arts."

"Local artists including myself and Walter Marroquin have been involved in this project," Johnson explained. "We were able to start The Switch through the generosity of Pat Tierney (at Tierney Realty Group) and P.J. Terranova at Riverside Theatre Works." He added that there is always an artist on duty at The Switch to explain artwork and help customers and fellow artists.

Image: One of Larry Johnson's many Horseman illustrations from his comic book series

Johnson has some of his works on exhibit in "Inclusive" and at The Switch. In addition, he has slideshows of sketches and illustrations on YouTube. His comic book series, "The Best of Tales of Fantasy," is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). "Lew Brown, one of the main characters, is a roving reporter," he said. "Bart Rover is the 'main' character, while Madame Boogola is a gypsy lady and Goomar is the son. There is a detective friend and a psychiatrist."

Another interesting animated series Johnson had created is the Horseman. He took a hiatus from creating comic books in April 2016 to focus on other art forms. "I make art because I enjoy it personally," he said with a smile. "I do renderings in black and white. I occasionally teach classes monthly at the Menino Art Center on sketching. I teach size and placement workshops." He added he possesses a natural talent many artists, and other famous leaders, have – left-handedness. "It's said that smarter people, and 50 percent of great artists, tend to be left-handed," he said nonchalantly.

"When I was a kid, I was always lazy, trying to finish four things at once," Johnson mused. "Now I am always left with a sense of satisfaction."

"Inclusive" will run at the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library, 35 Central Ave., Hyde Park, through April 20.

For more information, contact <http://larryjohnsonartist.com>.





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## APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

### CALL FOR POETRY - THE MAYOR'S POETRY PROGRAM AT BOSTON CITY HALL

This year's theme is Boston's Diverse Neighborhoods.

Along with its rich literary history, Boston is also home to many talented contemporary writers. In honor of the diverse and creative village we call Boston, the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture will display selected poems on the walls of city hall. Poets who reside or work in Boston are invited to send in work to help celebrate the city through poetry and to remind people of what a culturally exciting city Boston is to live and work in.

A public reading hosted by Boston's Poet Laureate Danielle Legros Georges will take place to highlight the selected poems the last week in April.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 14, 2018

<https://cityofbostonartsandculture.submittable.com/submit/78029/the-mayors-poetry-program-at-boston-city-hall>

## RECOMMENDED EVENT

### MUNSELL CENTENNIAL COLOR SYMPOSIUM - BRIDGING SCIENCE, ART, & INDUSTRY

Massachusetts College of Art and Design - June 10-15, 2018

The Munsell Centennial Color Symposium is a one-time only, interdisciplinary gathering of color professionals to honor the life and work of American color pioneer Albert H. Munsell. Inspired by Munsell's commitment to bridging the art and science of color the Symposium will bring together color scientists, artists, and industrialists from all over the world for five days of talks, tutorials, workshops, and field trips by invited speakers and presenters.

We will look back at the last 100 years of color research and look forward to what the future might bring.

<https://munsell2018.org>

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# It's All About Arts Television

Promoting Local Arts!



**Glenn Williams - Host**



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**Curt Naihersey**  
Guest Recruiter



**Kelly Ransom**  
Co Host

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**NEIGHBORHOOD ART GALLERY**



**APRIL/MAY 2018 EXHIBIT**  
***Celebrating Haitian Heritage***

**Artist  
Reception**

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Art Gallery viewing and artist  
reception at BNN's media center.  
Free and open to the public.  
RSVP required.

**MONDAY APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

Gallery is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
and is open to the public during  
operating hours Monday – Saturday  
Closed on Sunday

**In the  
Gallery**

**Featured Artists:**

Atizan Kreyòl  
Celebrating Haitian Heritage Month  
Mattapan Arts Council

Zachary Belizaire  
Rocky Cotard  
Jonas Exume  
Lahya Hyppolite  
Mosheh Tucker  
Chanel Thervil  
Marjorie Saintil-Belizaire

**It's All  
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Meet the artists  
on BNN's Its All About Arts  
with host Glenn Williams



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