



Photo: Gary Manny

ARTISTS TO WATCH

A SELECTION OF DIVERSE LOCAL TALENT BY HEATHER BRYCE

ance Of Things Past
 painter **Dinah Maxwell Smith's** brush is loaded with a smidgen of nostalgia along with her many beachscapes peopled with figures. Her many beachscapes peopled with figures could have captured a moment at any time in history. A master at portraying the interplay of light and deep shadow, she uses rich saturated colors in her paintings "sing." Her work has been called "small gems" by the *New York Times* and "visually strong as they are visually endearing" by *Art magazine*. Her "charged brushwork" creates a simultaneous sense of intimacy and distance through the combination of close-up and blurred details. According to *Art News*, when asked what she loves in her work, she answers: "The Aha! moment. The universality of recognition."

Besides beachscapes, her subjects include still life, people, horses and dogs (many commissioned), which she executes in a painterly, impressionistic style characteristic of the **Long Island School**. After studying painting at the Academie Julian in Paris she received her BFA from the **Rhode Island School of Design**, and has been widely exhibited at such institutions as the **Parrish Art Museum**. Her works are represented in many permanent collections.

Intimate Landscapes

Maryann Lucas began her career as a TV reporter and didn't start painting till she was a homemaker and needed an identity beyond "the diapers and dirty dishes." It was a calling that she was "meant to do," she says. Working in oil she focuses on such "intimate landscapes" as roses climbing a trellis or a front door.

Most of her work revolves around her own domestic scenes: fruit spilling onto a table, vegetables ready for the soup pot, a vase of lilacs – which she renders in dabs of lustrous color using only natural light. "My theme is my life – looking for the extraordinary in the ordinary. As a woman spending time at home I need to see beauty in everyday surroundings."

She is proud that her daughter, **Edwina**, 23, has followed in her footsteps. Edwina, who is mentoring with celebrated East End painter **John Alexander**, is currently painting fish – porgies or bluefish she buys at **Citarella** and executes with "immediacy and intimacy," according to her mother. Both Maryann, who has painted the posters for the **Sag Harbor American Music Festival** for the past five years, and Edwina are represented by **Sag Harbor's Grenning Gallery**.