

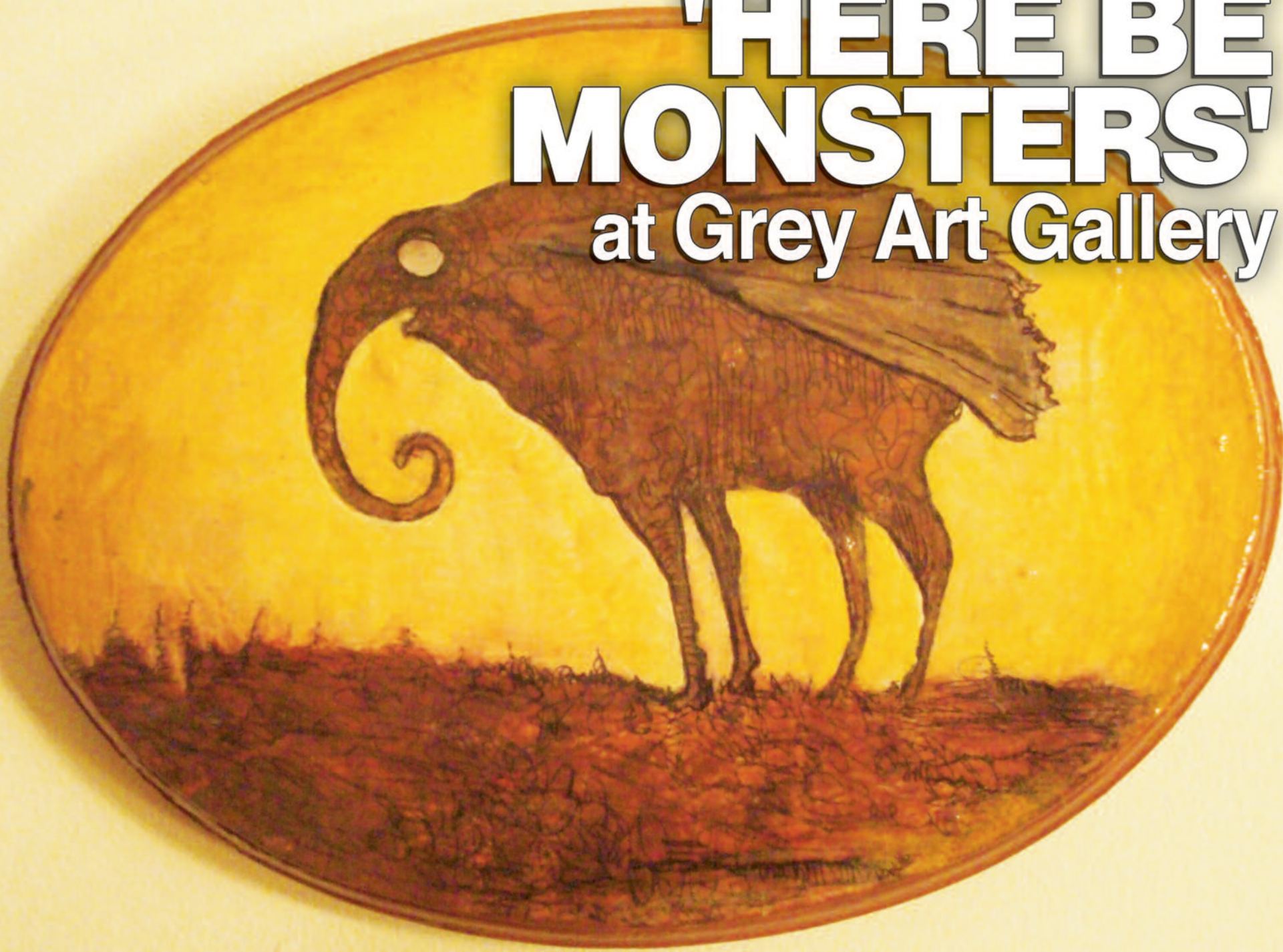
# on the arts

Sunday, January 1, 2012

SunGazette.com

showcase

## 'HERE BE MONSTERS' at Grey Art Gallery



**YOUR WEEKLY ARTS GUIDE TO CENTRAL PA**

# An Artist at Play

## Tulu Bayar's 'Playground Series'

By BRIAN BUSH

bbush@sungazette.com

Tulu Bayar is an artist whose work explores people, place, sensory experience, identity and memory, among other things. Bayar's newest exhibition, "Playground Series," will be on display at the Lycoming College gallery from Jan. 19 to Feb. 19.

Born and raised in Turkey, Bayar moved to the United States in 1997 to pursue an M.F.A. in photography and electronic media.

She has been a professor of photography and multimedia at Bucknell University since 2002. Bayar hails from Ankara, the capital of Turkey, but was frequently on the move throughout her childhood because she came from a military family.

"I am an army brat," Bayar said. "So we moved a lot throughout Turkey. Although I was born in Ankara, I was raised everywhere in Turkey. Every two or three years we were moving."

Bayar's migratory upbringing continues to inform her subject matter and working method. Moving from place to place meant Bayar came into contact with new people all the time, sparking a fascination with



PHOTO BY TULU BAYAR

**"Playground Series" by Tulu Bayar is a series of photographs of people taking photographs. Bayar traveled to major tourist attractions around the world to take pictures of people taking pictures. The exhibit will be on display at the Lycoming College gallery from Jan. 19 to Feb. 19.**

people that pervades all of her work.

"You end up meeting really very interesting people," Bayar said. "It makes you really social even if you're not a social human being. It also makes you curious and makes you want to meet people, to see and understand what it's like to live in a new place. That really informed my work, I think."

Bayar is drawn to photography because it's a medium that requires the artist to interact with the outside world and, more importantly, with people.

"It's a perfect medium for me because I'm not so interested in burying myself in the studio — to be there for hours and be by myself," Bayar said. "Of course, initially, you need to do that, and there are times I need to be in the studio doing post-production. But the older I'm getting, the more I'm embracing the idea that art can happen anywhere. As artists, we need inspiration, we need new materials, we need constant stimulation and I feel like if I bury myself in the studio, then I'm missing something else. It closes

down all your sensory potential. As raw material, I really like to work with people outside, listen to them, go to the places they live and see the life of each place with my own eyes. That's why photography is such a natural medium for me."

Although photography is central to much of Bayar's work, she also employs a range of artistic mediums to create a multi-sensory effect. Bayar's art combines visual elements (photography, film, sculpture, installation) with audio components (dialogue and ambient

sound).

"Photography always plays a central part, but I don't shy away from trying and integrating different media if the idea calls for it," Bayar said.

When asked to comment on her multidisciplinary approach, Bayar said she wants her audience to experience her work in the same way they experience life: using all of their senses.

"When you observe life itself, when you experience it, you don't only use one sense," Bayar said. "In life, as human beings, we have multi-sensory experiences. I don't think we can really experience life as a whole without it. I truly believe that art should embrace multi-sensory experience. That's why I'm attracted to sound. I also do a lot of installations where I invite my audience to touch the artwork. That adds another dimension to the work."

To those who have visited galleries and art museums, this might seem like an unorthodox suggestion. Bayar, however, insists that touching is a necessary part of understanding her work.

"I don't subscribe to the idea that you cannot touch art because it is a precious object," Bayar said. "No, you need to touch art. You need to touch art in order to understand the surface, the material. Then you connect with the artist and you connect with the artwork. You also understand the process of how it became what it is."

The idea behind Ba-

yar's latest exhibit, "Playground Series," came to her very suddenly and almost by accident. Simply put, "Playground Series" is a series of photographs of people taking photographs. Bayar traveled to major tourist attractions around the world to take pictures of people taking pictures. The idea for the project came to her during a trip to China in 2009.

"I'd never been to Beijing and I really wanted to see it. I was curious," Bayar said. "You know how it is when you go to a new place. You try to experience and understand the whole culture. I was doing both touristy and non-touristy activities."

"One touristy activity that I did in Beijing was going to the Bird's Nest Stadium, where the Olympics took place in 2008. It's such a tourist trap because they're not using it as a stadium anymore. It's just a tourist attraction, where you buy a ticket and go inside to see the empty stadium. As soon as I entered, I was fascinated by the amount of people taking pictures. I was fascinated by their gestures and by the whole act of photography. Everyone was constantly shooting. Every corner was being photographed. People were photographing themselves, each other, the stadium. It was such an interesting experience. And here I had my DSLR camera, and I looked at myself and thought 'I'm a photographer' and the

(See TULU, Page 10)

# CALENDAR

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

# Ongoing EVENTS

•MUSIC•DANCE•EVENTS•CLASSES•ART•MUSIC•DANCE•EVENTS•CLASSES•ART•MUSIC•DANCE•EVENTS•CLASSES•ART•MUSIC•DANCE•

### CLASSES

- Ceramic classes are held in Clay Studio 26 at the Pajama Factory, 1307 Park Ave. For more information, email penny.young@mac.com.
- Art classes, workshops and private art lessons at Paper Plus at the Pajama Factory, 1307 Park Ave. Call 651-5471 for more information.
- Art lessons presented by the Lycoming Art Students League. Call 327-8338 for more information.
- Music Business Classes are held at the Uptown Music Collective, 848 W. Fourth St. For more information, call 974-1043 or 329-0888.

- World Class Jazz workshop is held from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, Bullfrog Brewery.

### DANCE

- Art, ballroom dance, drama, brass, music lessons presents by the St. John School of the Arts. 327-5575.

### MUSIC

- "Two-Step-Couple and Line Dance," 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Hepburn Township Fire Hall, East Route 973. Bring your own beer with proper ID.
- Williamsport Civic Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m.

Mondays, St. Mark Lutheran Church, 142 Market St. Enter through rear door.

- Pearl and Ivory, 6 p.m. Sundays, Vic's Pub, 2167 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg.

- A-DJ productions, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays and 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays, Club 15 in the Quality Inn, South Williamsport.

- Doug McMinn Jazz Quartet, 7 p.m., first Wednesday of each month, Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. Fourth St.

- Repasz Band rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday nights at the Sechler Community Room, City Hall.

### ART

- "Here Be Monsters," featuring Liz Parrish, will be on display at the Grey Art Gallery, 140 W. Fourth St., from Thursday through the end of the month. The opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday.

- "Dear Santa, Please Bring Me a Doll" exhibit through Jan. 27, Thomas T. Taber Museum, 858 W. Fourth St.

### EVENTS

- Trivia Tuesday begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Trail Inn, 3575 Lycoming Creek Road, Cogan Station.

- Keith's Karaoke, 10 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; Club Z, 321 Pine St.

## Saturday

- DJ presented by Jam Productions, 9 p.m., Jan. 7, 2012; South Avis Inn, 67 Maryland Ave., Avis.

- DJ, 9 p.m., Jan. 7, 2012; Riverside Lounge, South Main Street, Montgomery.

- DJ Phreak, 10 p.m., Jan. 7, 2012; Club Z, 321 Pine St.

- Clyde Frog, 10 p.m., Jan. 7, 2012; Williamsport Moose Family Center 145, 1219 W. Southern Ave., South Williamsport.

## Jan. 8

- Jazz Brunch, Noon, Jan. 8, 2012; Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. Fourth St.

- Cards: Setback League play, 6 p.m., Jan. 8, 2012; Moose Family Center 145, 1219 W. Southern Ave., South Williamsport.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 8, 2012; The Old Corner, 328 Court St.

## Jan. 9

- Keith's Karaoke, 9 p.m., Jan. 9, 2012; Kelly's Grill, 37 W. Fourth St.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 9, 2012; The Sons of Italy, 144 E. Fourth St.

## Jan. 10

- Crippled Bear Bike Night, 6 p.m., Jan. 10, 2012; Crippled Bear Inn,

2967 Lycoming Creek Road.

- Magic School Bus LIVE!, 7 p.m., Jan. 10, 2012; Community Arts Center, 220 W. Fourth St.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 10, 2012; Kimball's Pub, 972 Second St.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 10, 2012; The Pub II, 133 Mill St., Danville.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 10, 2012; Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. Fourth St.

## Jan. 11

- Two-Step Couple and Line Dance, 7 p.m., Jan. 11, 2012; Hepburn Township Fire Hall, East Route 973.

- Quizzo, 8 p.m., Jan. 11, 2012; Kimball's Pub, 972 Second St.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 11, 2012; The Pub II, 133 Mill St., Danville.

## Jan. 12

- Here For The Party Entertainment DJ and Karaoke, 8 p.m., Jan. 12, 2012; The New K Bar, 523 E. Third St.

- Discmaster Digital DJ Brian Barckley, 9 p.m., Jan. 12, 2012; Rivals, 420 River Ave.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 12, 2012; The Pig's Ear, 939 Westminster Drive.

## Jan. 13

- "Puss in Boots", 7:30 p.m., Jan. 13, 2012; Community Theatre League, 100 W. Third St.

- DJ with Lee Travis and

(See CAL, Page 9)

## Today

Happy New Year!

## Monday

- Keith's Karaoke, 9 p.m., Jan. 2, 2012; Kelly's Grill, 37 W. Fourth St.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 2, 2012; The Sons of Italy, 144 E. Fourth St.

## Tuesday

- Crippled Bear Bike Night, 6 p.m., Jan. 3, 2012;

Crippled Bear Inn, 2967 Lycoming Creek Road.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 3, 2012; Kimball's Pub, 972 Second St.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 3, 2012; Bullfrog Brewery, 229 W. Fourth St.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 3, 2012; The Pub II, 133 Mill St., Danville.

## Wednesday

- Two-Step Couple and Line Dance, 7 p.m., Jan. 4, 2012; Hepburn Township Fire Hall, East Route 973.

- Quizzo, 8 p.m., Jan. 4, 2012; Kimball's Pub, 972

Second St.

- Open Mic, 9 p.m., Jan. 4, 2012; The Pub II, 133 Mill St., Danville.

## Thursday

- Here For The Party Entertainment DJ and Karaoke, 8 p.m., Jan. 5, 2012; The New K Bar, 523 E. Third St.

- Quizzo, 9 p.m., Jan. 5, 2012; The Pig's Ear, 939 Westminster Drive.

- Discmaster Digital DJ Brian Barckley, 9 p.m., Jan. 5, 2012; Rivals, 420 River Ave.

## Friday

- Singles dance, 7 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; 207 S. Hopkins St., Sayre.

- DJ with Lee Travis and Tony Michales, 9 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; Benjie's, 350 Hughes St.

- DJ with Monster Sound, 9 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; The Lodge Bar and Grill, 2019 E. Third St.

- DJ presented by Blaze Entertainment, 9 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; The K Bar, 523 E. Third St.

- DJ JP, 10 p.m., Jan. 6, 2012; Dance Club at Club Z, 321 Pine St.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Tulu Bayar at Lyco gallery

(From Page 3)

whole thing turned into a playground for me. I started photographing the people. Some of them even turned their cameras at me and started shooting me, shooting them. So, the whole thing became like a playground. I ended up taking hundreds of pictures.

“When I came back to the U.S. and I was looking at these photographs, I realized there’s so much potential in this. It’s fascinating. It’s not about the place, it’s not about one particular city, it’s not about one particular culture. It happens everywhere; it’s a phenomenon. It’s how we experience the world now. I thought, I have to go to major tourist destinations in major cities and do this. So I went to London, to Times Square in New York, to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, to Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, and did the same thing. It’s an on-going project.”

“Playground Series” will feature photographs from all five cities. The photos will be displayed in an installation format. “They’re not going to be framed or displayed in a traditional way,” Bayar said. “There’s going to be an installation element to it.”

This exhibition contains many of the themes central to Bayar’s work as a whole: memory, place,



PHOTO BY TULU BAYAR

**“Playground Series” opens Jan. 19 at the Lycoming College Gallery. An opening reception and artist talk will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m.**

sensory experience, and — as always — people. Bayar is a born observer of the world, never taking anything she sees for granted. Indeed, much of her work seems to ask its audience to slow down and take notice of certain things; it asks you to pay close attention, to go beyond first impressions, to see even the most mundane activity in a new way. Her art is full of fascination. Bayar brings this fascination to bear on the people who become subjects in her work. “Every individual is so fascinating. I don’t think boring people exist,” Bayar said. “Each of us, as individuals, wherever we live, whatever we do, we’re all so interesting. I think every life, no mat-

ter how mundane it might seem, is worth observing. I learn a lot from strangers, from people that I don’t know. It makes you grow not only as an artist but as a human being.”

This attitude, while difficult for most to cultivate, has served Bayar well. Her work has been shown all over the world, including major U.S. galleries in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, and abroad in France, Germany, Denmark, Britain and Turkey. Despite having lived in Lewisburg since 2002, Bayar has never shown locally, and so was very excited about her upcoming exhibition at the Lycoming College Gallery. “After 10 years, I’m finally showing local-

ly,” Bayar cheered. “I wanted to exhibit my work locally, but the opportunity never came to me. I was thrilled and honored to be invited. I accepted in a heartbeat.” “Playground Series” opens Jan. 19 at the Lycoming College Gallery. An opening reception and artist talk will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19. To view Bayar’s work, including a sampling of her “Playground Series” photographs, visit [www.tulubayar.com](http://www.tulubayar.com).



## First Friday

(From Page 5)

Gallery of January’s First Friday would like to present Lycoming College sophomore, Stevie Spishock, as its exhibiting artist. She describes herself as a photographer who tries to convey feelings through images. “Just because a sunset is photographed, it doesn’t necessarily project a feeling of calmness and resolution,” she said.

Spishock’s exhibit may be seen from 6 to 9 p.m. in the front lobby of the Community Arts Center, 220 W. Fourth St., and will remain on the second floor lobby for the rest of the month.

### Julie’s Coffee

Julie’s Coffee, 33 W. Third St., will host photographer Michael Blackwell as its guest artist for January’s First Friday. His exhibition, titled “A Black and White Perspective,” will open with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

The show will run through the end of February.

Blackwell, a Williamsport native, grew up in Loysock and graduated from Williamsport High School.

He was a performer in the Concert Choir, the Vocal Jazz Band, and attended summer stock theatre in Cape May, New Jersey. More recently, he has performed with the Community Theatre League.

For the past 18 years, Blackwell has worked for Sabre Communications, which is now Backyard

Broadcasting. He also is a radio personality known as Jake Michaels on Oldiez 93 WBZD.

“For me, photography has become a new creative outlet, a different way to express myself and what I see in life,” he said. “I was always the casual shutterbug, but over the past four years, I have been seriously involved. After stepping up from the simpler point-and-shoot type cameras to a more advanced DSLR camera, it has been practically attached to my hip. Rarely, do I travel anywhere without my camera.

“I can find inspiration for a photo in just about anything I see. From the simple flower sprouting for the first time in spring to the various iconic structures that surround us. If you stop and look around you for a moment, it’s all there to see. Pictures spark a memory, take you back in time and can reveal emotion. This is what continues to feed my desire to photograph the world around me and the fact that no two pictures are the same.”

Blackwell has studied the basics of photography, but is mostly a self-taught artist. This is his first show in all black-and-white photography and he has found it more of a challenge than his color work. “When shooting in color, you can use that color to lead the eye into or around the photograph,” he said. “In black and white, you must use shapes, tones, and textures in your frame as points of interest.”