

— THE — WEST WINDSOR SUN

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FREE

Faculty of art council to exhibit work through Sept. 6

BY HEATHER FIORE

The West Windsor Sun

Six faculty members from the West Windsor Arts Council are exhibiting their personal work at the West Windsor Arts Center until Friday, Sept. 6, including West Windsor resident Aparajita "Pooja" Sen.

Sen, who moved to West Windsor three years ago, started teaching at the WWAC earlier this year.

"I'd heard such wonderful things about the WWAC, and I also took classes there, so when I got into teaching, I wanted to teach there," she said. "I walked in one day, told them I was interested in teaching and have been there ever since."

Sen currently teaches an art history class on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and a pastel class on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She taught "Adventures in Art" in the spring, a class that introduces all mediums.

"It's a wonderful organization, and I'm so happy to be part of it," Sen said. "The classes they teach there are amazing, and kids are excited to learn."

Sen has been drawing for the last 10 years, but began painting eight years ago. She originally pursued a career in finance, but her strong desire to become an artist led her to change careers.



HEATHER FIORE/The West Windsor Sun

West Windsor resident Aparajita "Pooja" Sen is one of the featured artists in the Faculty Show at the West Windsor Arts Center. Sen teaches art classes for the West Windsor Arts Council, and currently has three mixed media pieces of exhibit, including these two pieces entitled, "Metamorphosis I" and "Metamorphosis II," which can be purchased for \$950 each.

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Resident has three pieces in Faculty Show

RESIDENT

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Since then, she has completed years of training, had the opportunity to work with many award-winning artists and has begun

her own teaching practice in her home. Sen began painting traditional styles, but over the last five years, has converted to a more contemporary style, working mostly with oils.

"I just love that medium; it's so good to work with," she said. "And, I like working with vibrant colors. I've worked with acrylics and pastels, but my favorite medium is oil because it's just so wonderful to work with."

Sen has three mixed media pieces in the Faculty Show - "Metamorphosis I," "Metamorphosis II" and "Metamorphosis III" - that are each for sale for \$950.

"For this series, I was inspired by a frozen lake, so I took a lot of close-up shots of the ice when it was frozen," she said. "The pictures are very grey because ice doesn't have much color, but I love working with color; color is my thing, so I used a lot of color. I also used glass beads and gold flakes to show this vibrant, colorful, textural scene."

Sen wanted to create a sense of transformation through her pieces, which is why each painting shows a different stage of the water in the lake on which she focused.

"When I paint, I put a lot of thought into my work," she said. "All of my paintings mean something and represent something - there's some sort of symbolism."

"When someone views the painting, they might think of something completely different; it's a mystery," she said. "The good thing about contemporary art is that it's the viewer's interpretation of the work. Everyone thinks something different, which is why I leave parts of my work as a mystery so everyone has their own interpretation."

To view Sen's works, go to senjita.com.

For information on the West Windsor Arts Council and West Windsor Arts Center, go to westwindsoarts.org, call (609) 716-1901, or email info@westwindsoarts.org.

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