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Jeff Cowie's Year Of Scribbles And Drawings

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Like Post-It notes writ large, artist and set designer Jeff Cowie vowed t… day for a year, sometimes more than one.

His stack of work — mostly words in art — are in t… cartoony block letters or fashioned from scraps of torn paper, on a flat … ediacy that allowed for wicked wordplay and stark declarations

From the hundreds of pieces, it w… wie: Words and Pictures," currently at the G…

It's fitting that it adjoins a thea… his partner, former Hartford Stag… of one work, but it's just one of an ar… e work on white paper, pierced to mak…

There is a punk-rock element to t… e, "Johnny Rotten."

Some work as clever turns of phrase, such… orism that might be traced to Ru Paul: "Apply Drag Queen Techno… te to a friend: "Coffee Shop Crush" and "Oh, And I Fell Down a Flight of Co…

But most of the pieces work as striking visual pieces, s… ess, its words inverted. There is a serious intent at work, especially with the installation in a back hall, "Katrina in Word… ure and curtains from a dozen prints of New Orleans interiors have been excised and placed jumbled in a plastic bag hangin…

Another installation, "The Unwashed Phenomen… pairs of jeans of various vintage and fading, is gone altogether, as are a handful of the works that had been in the show when it … obbed a few on his way to Provincetown, a place where he could also use those jeans.

There's still more than 60 works in the sho… r see it before it disappears any further. "Jeff Cowie: Words and Pictures" continues through July 24 at the Gallery of Americ… Works, 233 Pearl St., Hartford.

Also This Week

Speaking of Provincetown, the cha… on the farthest reach of Cape Cod has become known recently for its restaurants and freewheeling spirit. But all of that grew out of … d reputation as a an arts colony, one of the country's oldest.

It's given a loving salute in a n… t the **New Britain Musuem of American Art**, opening Friday. Among its works are those by Robert Motherwell, Mark Rothko, F… per, Willem de Kooning and Hans Hoffman. A reception is set Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m.; the show continues to Oct. 16.

Illustration has explode… ovie theaters in a steady line of animated films, most of them all done in 3D. One successful studio in the field, the Connecticut-based Bl… tudio, is the subject of a special interactive exhibit at the **Norman Rockwell Museum** in Stockbridge, Mass., this summer.

"'Ice Age' to the D… ge: The 3D Animation Art of Blue Sky Studios," celebrating the work of the Greenwich-based studio behind the three "Ice Age" films as w… Robots" and "Rio," has a number of special programs to accompany the show.

Two are this … Today, Thomas Cardone, art director of "Rio," who has credits in films from "Aladdin" to "Beauty and the Beast," will speak at the museum … 30 p.m. as part of the museum's summer lecture series.

Saturday … Blue Skies Family Day" from 1 to 6 p.m., when a number of the studio's animators and illustrators will speak about their art and meet fans of t… r talking animals.

Final… , an outdoor installation of robot sculptures, culled from an open call, will presented in a new show "Robot Nation," opening Saturday on the Rockwell Museum grounds from 4 to 6 p.m. It continues through Oct. 31, which is also the closing date for the Blue Skies show.

Images taken while in residence at Weir Farm National Historic Site in March have popped up in a new show by artist Xiomaro, on display at **The Cup Coffeehouse** in Wantagh, N.Y. In the show "FractalSacapes," he focuses closely on the textures and rhythms found in natural forms.

The growing seems good at the **Lyme Art Association** in Old Lyme, where the annual Lavender & Lyme fundraising party Saturday will be framed by giant-sized springs of lavender flowers, courtesy of artist Camomile Hixon. The event Saturday from 6:30 to 10 p.m. will feature food, music and dancing.

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