

Bottle Museum to display prints

Since its founding, the Jan Rutland Artists' Space on the second floor of the **Bottle Museum** in Ballston Spa has been home to art. Hosting five to six different types of exhibitions each year, volunteer-director **Fred Neudoerffer** searches for local artists to showcase their works.

"Showing art for the people is the goal," Neudoerffer said, "and to have artists sharing their passion."

Enter Ragged Edge.

Located in Cohoes, Ragged Edge is a printmaking studio that offers classes, workshops and regular studio time to any interested artist. Since most printmaking artists don't have a press at home, Ragged Edge offers them space and equipment. The studio has an etching press and offers a wide range of processes, from monoprint to dye transfer.

Neudoerffer and Ragged Edge's director, **Kathy Klompas**, connected, and the exhibit "Singular Impressions," which opens Saturday at the museum, was the result.

The four artists at Ragged Edge are Klompas, **Helga Prichard**, Ruby Silvius and **Mary Ellen Riell**, all of whom will have their work displayed at the exhibit.

More Information

If you go

"Singular Impressions"

When: Opens 1 p.m. Saturday.
Continues through April 4.

Where: The National Bottle Museum,
76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa

Info: Free, 885-7589 or
<http://raggededgeprintstudio.com>

Riell says she paints outdoors, and therefore "needed to find something to do in the winter." Her printmaking, she says, reflects her artistic style, which is based on realism and figurative drawings.

"My prints are life drawings based on my artwork," says Riell. She also lists costume design as an influence in her printmaking.

Prichard uses her own background in painting and gardening to inform her style at the etching press.

Ragged Edge is a "green" studio. It uses oil from soybeans and cleans plates with soap and water. Due the lack of an exhaust system, artist Mary Ellen Riell says the "air is cleaner to breathe and it is better for the environment".

Some of the artists substitute other materials in place of paper, while still maintaining the same printmaking process. Director Klompas will display printing on silk scarves at the exhibit, and Silvius will be using tea bags. Riell jokingly says the Silvius' use of tea bags is another example of Ragged Edge going green.

All of the artists will be at the opening ceremony, and be available for questions. The exhibit will run until April 4.

"I expect people will enjoy the show," Riell says. "The work is varied, and I think they'll enjoy it."

