

## Artist

# Mixed media paintings, drawings by Thomas Huber on display in Beacon

**Barbara Gallo Farrell**

Poughkeepsie Journal

*Editor's note: Portrait of the Artist is a regular feature in Enjoy! that spotlights artists with exhibits in the Hudson Valley. If you are an artist in a current or upcoming exhibit and would like to be included in this feature, email bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com. This week's Portrait of the Artist features Thomas Huber, whose work is on display at Matteawan Gallery in Beacon through Dec. 17.*

### When did you first realize you wanted to be an artist?

I cannot remember, I just always knew that I wanted to be an artist.

### Tell us about your art in "After Some Time" and what inspired you to select it for the show.

This group of paintings is the most current evolution of my work. I am also a performance artist and musician. In performance art it is all about immediacy and the moment — creating the art in front of an audience. Painting is generally viewed later after it has been prepared for viewing (perhaps framed), properly placed and lit correctly. "After Some Time" the work will be viewed. Painting and sculpture have a permanence — work that enters the historical lexicon in museums and collections will be cared for and tried to be kept in its original condition.

**If you go**

"Some Words After Time," artist talk by Thomas Huber and a poetry reading by Edwin Torres will take place at 5 p.m., Dec. 9, followed by a reception from 6-9 p.m. at Matteawan Gallery, 436 Main St., Beacon. Call 845-440-7901; visit [www.matteawan.com](http://www.matteawan.com)

But "After Some Time" also refers to my work — I collage scraps, doodles, drawings, lists etc., mostly made by others (the people around me and anonymous found items — I have a collection). These items are often plans for the future (architectural drawings, shopping lists, etc.) but they were made in the past; some are quite old. After some time they were put in the painting and after more time put in a show. When a viewer reads a shopping list in a painting, whose voice do they hear? The original writer, the artist, their own?

We are all in constant flux, but art stays the same (there are exceptions, of course). It is comforting to return to a favorite painting.

### Do you stick to a certain theme in your work or like to explore new techniques and subjects?

I am always looking for new ideas and materials to use. It is usually an accident that leads me to find a new direction.

### What do you think the most important thing is for an artist to learn, technically speaking?

I'm not sure if it is technical, but it is very important for a young artist to share his or her work and to try to understand what others are getting out of it. As an artist you may be trying to say a certain something, but what others get out of it may be different — this divide is of great interest to me and learning to bridge



"Contributions" by Thomas Huber.  
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this gap can help to push one's work forward.

### What do you hope viewers come away with after seeing your work?

I hope viewers question what they are looking at and it inspires them to see things in a different way.

### How have you handled the business side of being an artist?

That has been a challenge for me and I imagine most artists. I have supported myself in other ways, which frees an artist up not to worry too much about sales. But that being said, if a gallery supports you with a show, you want to do everything you can to make the show successful for the gallery.

### Who are some of your favorite artists?

Sigmar Polke, Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Terry Winters, Kurt Schwitters, Max Ernst.

### If we were to get a peek inside your journal or sketchbook, what would we see?

Piles of scraps, doodles, kids drawings, architectur-

al drawings. I also do some drawing myself. I like to draw with water and ink.

### What type of art decorates your home?

I have been part of the Hudson Valley art scene for over 15 years and in that time I have made many great artist friends. I like to trade my work, and my wife, Sarah, and I are fortunate to have the work of over 60 artists in our home. It is wonderful to have the work of your friends on the walls — especially when so many of them are wonderful artists. When I look at these works — I see the artists themselves. So I live amongst my friends.

### What excites you about art — what keeps you interested?

When I see a work that makes me think, "I hadn't thought about that." Good art expands the way one sees the world. The best part is talking about it with others.

*Thomas Huber's work has been exhibited throughout the Hudson Valley, in New York City and New England, as well as in Montreal, Canada. Huber received a B.Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York. He lives in Cold Spring. Visit <http://www.thomashuberart.com/>*



Thomas Huber

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