

Exhibit showcases 'The Best of Bronx'

Riverdale artists figure prominently in Krasdale Gallery

By Alexi Friedman

The sculpture, more than two feet tall and made of reinforced leaf, root, seed pod, springs and steel, resembles a sea creature rising to the surface with its thin tail trailing underneath.

Titled "Budding Leaf," the work by Riverdale resident Helene Brandt is one of more than 50 pieces by nine Bronx artists who make up the current exhibit, "The Best of the Bronx," at the Krasdale Art Gallery in the Hunts Point section of the borough.

Ms. Brandt, who works in metal sculptures and has exhibited at Wave Hill, has been showing her pieces for more than 30 years in New York. Another well-known artist who is part of "The Best of the Bronx" is Daniel Hauben, whose nostalgic paintings of the Bronx and Kingsbridge in particular, have been exhibited in numerous museums and shows.

Mr. Hauben has 13 paintings in the show, which occupies the upstairs lobby and executive wing of Krasdale distribution center's administrative offices. The artist's cityscape oil and canvas works evoke scenes from the 1930s and '40s though they are contemporary portraits. His "238th Street Steps," painted this year, looks down and east from the top of a step street toward the No. 1 elevated train station, giving a clear view of the neighborhood and its life.

There are emerging artists included in the

exhibit, like Riverdalian Luis Fonseca, whose photographs use light and exposure to create their own images. His work, "Devotion to the unattainable," is a panel of nine photos of wisps of light tracing their own paths. "There's a certain dynamism to the work," said Sigmund Balka, director and chief operating officer of the Krasdale Galleries. Mr. Balka chose the artists and their works with help from Edward Ramoran, director of the Longwood Arts Project of the Bronx Council of the Arts at Hostos Community College. Bryony Roberts contributed short explanations of each artist and their contributions for the accompanying catalog.

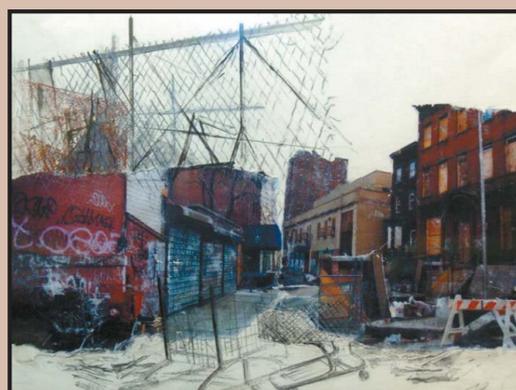
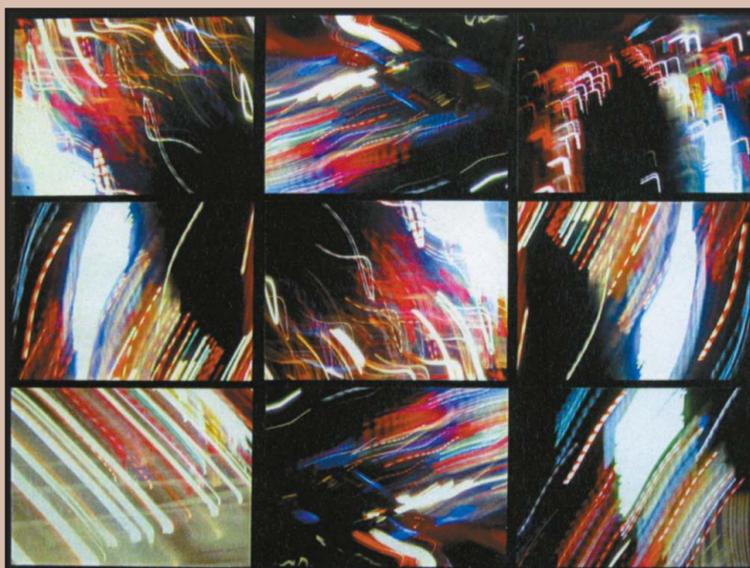
Some of the more experienced artists in "The Best of the Bronx" include City Island resident Ron Terner, with his haunting black-and-white photos of people he met in travels through Mexico, Puerto Rico and Peru over the last quarter-century; and Linda Cunningham, who broke from her stone and steel sculptures to include collages of Bronx scenes, created through laser transfers.

The variety of works are part of the reason Mr. Balka made his selections, he said, besides being taken with the pieces themselves. "I thought they were significant artists in their own right," he said. "They are among the best in Bronx."

'The Best of The Bronx,' in the Krasdale Art Gallery, has been extended to mid-February.

Simply getting to the Krasdale Gallery is something of an adventure. Located at 400 Food Center Drive in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, it's past the city Department of Corrections headquarters as well as the new, giant Fulton Fish Market. For directions, visit www.Krasdalegalleries.com.

The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A phone call beforehand is recommended. The gallery is closed on weekends.



SOME OF the works in the Krasdale Gallery's new 'Best of the Bronx' exhibit feature, clockwise from top, Daniel Hauben's '238th Street Steps,' Helene Brandt's 'Budding Leaf,' Ron Terner's 'Old Lady and Child' and Linda Cunningham's 'Carts & Barriers.'

LUIS FONSECA'S Noho Star, which is one of the works in the exhibit, shows the artist's interest in using light and exposure to create new images.