

# Portraits echo at the Griffin

By Kristin Cantu  
Special to The Star

In the Griffin Museum of Photography's new exhibitions, you feel like you are getting to know each of the photographers through their portraiture. Visitors will find a mix of both the literal and the surreal in the bodies of work of Rita Bernstein, Jess T. Dugan and Lynn Goldsmith.

"The unifier of all three of these photographers is the portrait," said Paula Tognarelli, executive director and curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography. "I like to create a blending of exhibits...and the portrait is an echoing theme."

The exhibits open Sept. 27 through Dec. 2.

## Lynn Goldsmith: The Looking Glass

Goldsmith's exhibition is a series of self-portraits. But you'd be hard-pressed to find a literal representation of who the photographer is in these portraits.

Goldsmith has historically photographed subjects that live in the public eye, everyone from rock stars to film directors. Her collection of self-portraits in *The Looking Glass* is a departure from her previous commercial work and a foray into her study of how shopping affects how we see ourselves and others' perceptions of us.

"People tend to put [others] in a box and limit who they are and what they do," Goldsmith said. "Fashion over the course of history kind of sets a tone for who the culture is. To me, our choice of how we want to see ourselves and how we want others to see us is played out to the world by what we choose to wear."

In Goldsmith's self-portraits, she inserts herself into New York City window displays and creates a fictional narrative in which she hopes to "highlight the psychological relationship between what we see and what we imagine," she said.

## Jess T. Dugan: Transcendence

Dugan's portraits focus on a very personal topic—his own transgendered community.

"I want to represent a community that is beautiful, respectful, positive and complicated," said Dugan,



Lynn Goldsmith's self-portrait "Blame It On The Fragrance" is one of three portrait exhibits opening tonight, Sept. 27, at the Griffin Museum, 67 Shore Road. For more info, visit [www.griffinmuseum.org](http://www.griffinmuseum.org). COURTESY PHOTOS



Jess T. Dugan's portrait Aidan from his exhibit *Transcendence* at the Griffin Museum.



Rita Bernstein's *The Last Time*.

who was born a woman and identifies as a man. "We deal with more complicated identity images," adding that he felt really strongly about wanting to "make beautiful photographs of my community."

Dugan began taking pictures of "everything obsessively" as a child. But he didn't consider photography as a career until his senior year of high school. Taking portraits really resonated, and "it just stuck," he said.

"As a portrait photographer, I want viewers to connect with people in the photographs, and that connection makes them reflective somehow,"

Dugan said. "I mostly just want people to be moved emotionally by the work."

## Rita Bernstein: Undertow

Photographer Rita Bernstein's exhibition *Undertow* shows the "flawed beauty of the people I photograph," she said. "I am very drawn to human flaws, both physical and psychological. The prints each have their own unique blemishes."

Bernstein, who says she was considered the "least artistic" in a family of artists, didn't start out as a photographer. She was a civil rights attorney.

"I always loved art, and

when I had children I started taking a lot of pictures," said Bernstein. "I realized I really enjoyed that and realized that even though I couldn't draw, I could see."

"I tend to be very psychologically oriented in my work," Bernstein said. "I'm very interested in people, in relationships. The mystery of each of us and how difficult it is to know and really understand another person."

"In general, the people in my pictures are people I know and who I've photographed for a long period of time," Bernstein added. "There's a certain chemistry between us or

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK | SEPT. 27

## Exhibitions opens tonight

### 3 Things to know

**1** The Griffin Museum of Photography opens a trio of new exhibits tonight with an opening reception and slate of artists' talks this weekend.

**2** Don't miss the artists talks this weekend that likely will focus on the ways photographers insert their own personality into portraits. Goldsmith's portraits are of herself, but from points of view that shield her almost completely from view. Dugan's work, on the other hand, photographed other people who were all part of the transgender community, of which he belongs.

**3** Also check out the ongoing exhibit at Griffin's other in-town gallery on Swanton Street. Robert Schwartz's "Gestures and Glances" is at The Aberjona River Gallery until Dec. 2.

## About

**WHEN** Opening Sept. 27

**WHERE** Griffin Museum, 67 Shore Road

**HOURS** Daily Noon-4 p.m. Closed Mondays

**COST** \$7, seniors \$3, children under 12 free

**INFO** [www.griffinmuseum.org](http://www.griffinmuseum.org)

## Upcoming

Opening reception Sept. 27, 7-8:30 p.m.

Members talk with Jess T. Dugan Sept. 27, 6:15 p.m.

Talk with Lynn Goldsmith Sept. 28, 7 p.m.

among us."

Bernstein's images have a handmade quality to them, which she contributes to the process of making her portraits.

"I look for a process that is sympathetic to my

pictures the handmade quality refers back to how each of us is unique and mysterious," she said.

"There's a reference of vulnerability too, and I like (the portraits) to be raw and a little messy."

## AROUND TOWN

### Jenks Center annual cookout Sept. 28

The Jenks will be going Hawaiian again this year at the Annual Cookout on Friday, Sept. 28.

Enjoy barbecue fare of hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages complemented by fresh salads, refreshing drinks and dessert. The Woburn Host Lions Club will man the grills and a steel drums player will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$15 and limited to the first 100 people. Purchase at the Jenks Center by Sept. 21.

Friday, Sept. 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Jenks Center, Skillings Road, Winchester.

For more info, call 781-721-7136.

### Chamber annual fall flea market Sept. 29

The Winchester Chamber of Commerce's annual flea market, yard sale and craft sale will be held Saturday, Sept. 29.

Antiques, collectibles, crafts and treasures from the attic will be featured. Don't forget to bring the kids - we're sure they'll find items they like, too. What a fun way to spend a lovely fall day!

Sept. 29, 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Town Hall parking lot. Rain date is Sept. 30.

To be a vendor, find an application at [www.winchesterchamber.com](http://www.winchesterchamber.com), send an email to [info@winchesterchamber.com](mailto:info@winchesterchamber.com), call 781-729-8870 or visit the Chamber at 25 Waterfield Rd.

### Field to plate program begins

"Setting the Table: From field to plate," the service learning program for teenagers about food, farms and hunger, begins its third year on Sept. 30.

Middle- and high-school students will learn to cook, take field trips to talk to and volunteer at local farmers, food pantry organizers, chefs and healthy eating advocates. The program runs for eight alternate Sundays, skipping holiday weekends.

The program is popular with teenagers who are interested in cooking or food but haven't thought much about where the food comes from. It is also a winner with those who have changed their diet and want to learn recipes.

To join, contact Susan Youmans [ecosystems@aol.com](mailto:ecosystems@aol.com) or 781-729-04021

with names and grades. Adults who want their own Setting the Table experience are also invited to call to talk about volunteering opportunities.

### Multicultural Network seeks Executive Dir.

The Winchester Multicultural Network is seeking a part-time Executive Director to work approximately 20 hours a week on a flexible schedule that includes some night meetings and weekend events. A background in multicultural training is necessary, and organizational and computer skills are required. The Multicultural Network is an equal opportunity employer.

For an information packet containing application details, e-mail [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org) or call 781-729-7100. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30, 2012.

### Walk in the Fells with Winchester Trails

Who is Winchester Trails and what do they do? Come for a Walk in

the Fells on Oct. 1 or Oct. 2 and find out.

The walk starts at the Long Pond parking lot at 9 a.m.

Winchester Trails is a local volunteer organization established in 1967 as an adjunct to the Winchester Public School Science program. The group was founded to enable school children to explore nature and encourage responsibility for sustaining these resources.

To achieve these goals, the group conducts guided tours for fourth-grade classes in the fall and fifth-grade classes in the spring, for all five elementary schools. These walks are structured in small groups, each with its own volunteer leader. There is no fee for this program.

In this day of maximum competition for children's attention along with the scarcity of opportunities to expose most students to the natural world, Winchester Trails strives to make nature and its creatures, small and large, come alive and be relevant to their lives.

Winchester is fortunate to have many conservation areas within and adjacent to the town.

Guidebooks to these trails have been developed and published by Winchester Trails and they are available for purchase at Book Ends in Winchester Center or from Winchester Trails directly.

The organization is always interested in recruiting new members.

For more info, visit [winchestertrails.org](http://winchestertrails.org), email [info@winchestertrails.org](mailto:info@winchestertrails.org) or call Carole Davidson at 781-729-3292.

### Deadline For En Ka grant requests

Does your organization need funding for a project or a program?

The En Ka Society is soliciting requests for financial assistance from organizations serving the needs of Winchester residents.

The deadline for applications is Oct. 5.

The En Ka Society strives to support projects and initiatives that address the needs of students and youth, the elderly, the physically and mentally challenged, and non-profit organizations devoted to providing community enrichment and/or health and social services.

Requests to fund salaries or fixed operating expenses will not be considered. A project budget and organization financial statement must be included with the requests for funding.

For more info, contact Rose Anne Krutt at [rakrutt@msn.com](mailto:rakrutt@msn.com) or visit [www.enkasociety.org](http://www.enkasociety.org).

### Town Hall food pantry collection

Local food pantries need donations during the slowest time of the year.

Residents can drop off nonperishable food donations inside the first floor entrance of Town Hall during business hours. The food collected will be taken to the Council for Social Concern in Woburn.

Donations will be collected in Town Hall until the end of September.

Another drop-off spot is available at the Second Congregational Church, 485 Washington St. Donations can be placed in the metal can with cover outside the side entrance to the hall.

For more info, please call Becky Wollinger at [rtw55@hotmail.com](mailto:rtw55@hotmail.com).