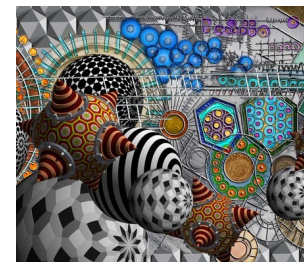


# Paterson: Art & The Mills

## F. Duignan & Neighbors

May 11, 2026 - July 31, 2026

Reception Saturday, May 16th, 1pm-4pm



**Scott Furman: Artwork:** GLISSANDO, July 2024, watercolor, pencil, computer graphics, 32" x 24". **Mural:** SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MURAL, summer 2019, installed at Jose Marti STEAM Academy, Union City, New Jersey (reproduction).

**Bill Gorcica:** FOREST ENERGY, 2022, encaustic, 3D modeled & carved by CNC router from an iPad drawing, 11.125" x 15" x 0.76"; ROOT SPARK, 2022; encaustic, 3D modeled & carved by CNC router from an iPad drawing; 11.125" x 15" x 0.76".

**Mark Hillringhouse: Books:** BETWEEN FRAMES, 2012, Serving House Books; PATERSON LIGHT AND SHADOW, 2017, Serving House Books; TALKING ALL NIGHT, 2025, Serving House Books. **Photos:** ABANDONNED TICKET WINDOW HINCLIFFE STADIUM, May 2004; GREAT FALLS, May, 2009; PATERSON STREET CORNER, May 2004; ; SILK SPOOLS, June 2006; SPRUCE STREET FIGURE WITH FACTORY WALL: HOMMAGE TO GEORGE TICE, May, 2008.

**Kate Jelly:** MAHAFALY WOMAN, 1980, cast black cement, 3.75' x 3' x 3', 500 lbs. Stolen from Art Students League, NYC. Photo is of the finished clay sculpture before being cast.

**Don Kommit:** MR. SERRANO – RESTAURATEUR IN PATERSON, 1978, oil on canvas, 36" x 24".

**Gilbert Riou:** APPROACHING PEMAQUID POINT LIGHTHOUSE, 2001, oil on canvas, 12"X16". A CLEAR MARBLE WITH INTERIOR COMPOSITION, 2007, oil on canvas, 22" X 24".

**AnnaCarina Sinocci:** Artwork: E. LUCEVAN LE STELLE, 2025, mixed media: cyanotype photograph, acrylic paint, organza, painted duck canvas, 34" x 23.5". **Photos:** ANNACARINA SINOCCHI, SELF PORTRAIT, 2022, two versions.

**Gerald Slota: FRenZY Series:** JUMP, 2024, Photograph on metallic paper, 12" x 12"; SUNRAY MAN, 2024, Photograph on metallic paper, 12" x 12"; MARS FLOWER, 2024, Photograph on metallic paper, 12" x 12".

**Gregory Van Maanen:** UNTITLED, 2009, Acrylic on board, 20" x 16", GVM 1803; UNTITLED, 2009, Acrylic on board, 29" x 23", GVM 1804

The Paterson Museum, 2 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07501

## Art & the Mills

In 1983, Paterson initiated subsidized housing for artists in two old abandoned mills in the newly designated Great Falls / SUM Historic District. These two former silk mills were among many empty factory buildings in the district that had once manufactured a variety of products including locomotives, guns, cotton, and especially silk and machinery. Manufacturing had moved to the South and abroad over the decades and silk had been replaced by rayon. In the 1980s, all types of artists (painters, musicians, poets, photographers, and arts workers) were invited to apply to live in the new housing with the hopes of establishing a creative community and a shop and gallery center for the City.

*Paterson: Art & the Mills- F. Duignan & Neighbors* focuses on the visual artists who lived in the refurbished mills from the 1980s to the early 2000s and some who still live there today. This exhibition asks what artist housing does for the artists and what it can, or sometimes cannot, do for the community. This heterogeneous group of art makers shared this housing, the neighborhood, and engaged in a raucous, creative interaction. It was much like a ragtag university housing with open studio doors, lots of noise (jazz musicians), aesthetic arguments, and good parties and bars. The work and role of painter Fred Duignan acts as an anchor for the exhibition with his expressive views of the Mills, the Great Falls, and his portraits of many of the early artist residents. Among other things, Duignan had played a role as organizer of exhibitions and made tenuous connections to New York City. For a handful of years, he was Curator of Contemporary Art at the Paterson Museum within the District, (1992-97), bringing shows and eccentrics from NYC, exhibits from Korea, and showcasing Mills artists.

Many of the core artists are in this exhibition. Their work gives an idea of the breaking of creative boundaries fostered by this unorthodox community and period. One finds crossovers of painting, sculpture, creative photography with poetry, music, technology, and the probing of the industrial and social/political realities. There is darkness and light, conscious and deep unconscious, and the urban realities of this raw, energetic place. Though not fully supported by the City in terms of development of needed studio, exhibition, and café spaces, the artists offered to the neighborhood and to the broader city, artistic outreach, critical investigations, teachers, local characters, help with arts programs, school murals, and books of photography which show the changing, deteriorating, beautiful historic roots of Paterson. Not quite a new Soho but a new ragged, significant energy center developed.

**Sara Lynn Henry, Curator**

## Works on Exhibition

**June Avignone: Books:** TRAVELING SMALL DISTANCES, Santa Rosa Publications, 1993; CIANCI STREET, A NEIGHBORHOOD IN TRANSITION, Italian Girls Press, 1996; IMAGES OF AMERICA: DOWNTOWN PATERSON, Arcadia Press, 1999. **Poem:** WOLF NOSE, (excerpt), 2019.

**Joseph Coco:** COMET DON KOMMIT'S COSMOS, Text in a window frame (frame elements from Kommit, 1990s), digital design, illustration in Coco book, *The Artistry of Don Kommit*, 2026; MENTOR'S MOON-TRIBUTE TO DON KOMMIT, THE LAST FULL MOON OF 2021 DECEMBER 18, (window frame painted by Kommit, 1990), 2021, oil on canvas, 30" x 24".

**Ellen Denuto: Books:** THE ARTIST AS ART, TRAVELING SMALL DISTANCES (photos). **Portrait photos:** SELF PORTRAIT, KATE JELLY IN STUDIO; JUNE; GERALD SLOTA; FRED & ZAK 2. **People & Places:** ATP ON FIRE, 1989; ATP FIRE, 1989; MILL AND VAN HOUTEN STREETS. **Fine Art photos:** GREENBAUM WOODWORKING; SHOPPING CARTS IN THE MIST. All photos date 1980s-90s.

**Fred Duignan: Portraits:** SELF PORTRAIT, 1986; SCOTT FURMAN, 1986; BILL GORCICA, 1987; MARK HILLRINGHOUSE, 1986; DON KOMMIT, 1986; GILBERT RIOU, 1986; GREGORY VAN MAANEN, 1986. All portraits are oil & acrylic on canvas, 32"x 20". **Mills & Falls:** UNTITLED MILL, c. 1993, acrylic on paper, 24"x 20"; THREE WINDOWS, 1993, acrylic & oil on canvas, 65"x 60" (reproduction); UNTITLED MILL, 1993, acrylic on paper, 24" x 20"; UNDERGROUND, 2000, on canvas, 48" x 42"; PATERSON MIND, 1989, oil & house paint, 60"x 42". **Abstractions:** SKETCHES OF SPAIN (MUSIC BY MILES DAVIS), Blues Series, 2020, Oil & Acrylic on Canvas, 20" x 24"; MEDITATION TWO, Unzipped Series, 2020, oil & acrylic on canvas, 30"x 40"; BUMBLE BEE (MUSIC BY MEMPHIS MILLIE), Blues Series, 2022, oil & acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20"; FREIGHT TRAIN BLUES (MUSIC BY TRIXIE SMITH), Blues Series, 2022, oil & acrylic, 18" x 24".

**Zak Duignan: Artwork:** LOST MILLENNIAL DREAM, 2024, mixed media collage on canvas, 24" x 18"; **Photo:** SELF PORTRAIT, December 2025.