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## ARTISTS

FROM PAGE 1

One painting, titled "Afternoon Picnic" included her signature pear series in a basket that was set out for an afternoon picnic and visited by a goose.

"I just wanted this wonderful afternoon to happen," she said. "We have these wonderful Canadian geese in this area, and I think they are great, so I added this to the painting."

DeLisle-Membrino's works include a collage, and winter scenes on old wood.

"I like to work on wood. I just like the feeling of the paint going on. Wood is strong."

DeLisle-Membrino uses what is accessible.

"I get an inner feeling of what I want to do, and it just comes to me in my mind. That is how my work comes out."

Den Poitras created shadow boxes from frames, and created a whole world inside the box with objects he has found on the beach or the side of the road.

"The object is not to spend any money," he said. "I find parts in parking lots that have fallen from cars, broken pieces of plastic."

Poitras fashioned a beautiful phoenix from a discarded broom, and an under-the-sea

scene from odd pieces of plastic and old broken trophy parts. What Poitras adds with paint and imagination is an incredible world contained in a box.

"It's just weird junk that inspires me to do something with it," he said. "I let it tell me what to do."

Poitras said that even placing a title on his work is fun. Each little window into his private world is like a glimpse into his brain.

Justin McGonigle's paintings are a reflection of what is going on in his life at a particular time, and he comes to the interview with paint on his fingers.

"I call it abstract realism," he said of his paintings.

McGonigle's art elicits a mood as soon as the viewer sees it. His colors and shapes breathe moodiness in one painting and strength in a second.

Richard Membrino studied art at Fitchburg State for two years, and then enrolled in classes at the Worcester Art Museum.

Membrino chose abstract pieces for the show at Stevens Memorial Library. He said titles chosen for his work really did not have anything to do with the pieces.

"It's hard to think of a title for an abstract work because it does-

n't really refer to anything."

Membrino explained that the colors were really there to define a thought.

"It's the art of suggestion rather than representation," he said. "Where a realistic painter is trying to depict a representation of something, I am more or less just expressing a sensation. I am making a suggestion and the interpretation on the part of the viewer completes the total scenario."

Membrino presents recent work using water colors and oil on wood.

"The purest color I think, is in watercolor," he said.

The 3 Painters and guest will hold a reception for "Recent Works," at Stevens Memorial Library on Monday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will



be served. This event is free and open to the public.

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# Local artists to display their work

## ■ ASHBURNHAM

BY DONEEN DURLING

DDURLING@THEGARDNERNEWS.COM

The 3 Painters is a group of three creative artists who have helped to keep art alive in the Ashburnham area. On Monday, March 7, The 3 Artists will become four when they join another artist for a show at Stevens Memorial Library.

"We've been a group since 2012," said artist Elaine DeLisle Membrino.

When a local artists' group that had attempted to find a gallery in Ashburnham could not make it work and broke up, the three artists wanted to keep a group together, said Delisle-Membrino, so Richard Membrino, and Justin McGonigle joined forces with Delisle-Membrino and established The 3 Artists.

Delisle-Membrino said the three keep looking for space to expand.

Den Poitras was invited as a guest to show his works beside The 3 Painters at the library, and Delisle-



News staff photo by DONEEN DURLING

**Elaine DeLisle-Membrino stands before her painting, "Afternoon Picnic."**

Membrino said there were other artists that have expressed interest in joining the group.

As a group, The 3 Artists have produced nine shows together. It was easy to add Poitras to the mix.

"We've always enjoyed Dennis's work," said DeLisle-Membrino.

All four artists currently live in

Ashburnham, and the show was filled with their most current works.

DeLisle-Membrino said she produces series when she paints. As a self-taught artist working with multiple styles and mediums, her sense of color and form can go from disciplined to abstract.

ARTISTS 4

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