

Perspectives on Homelessness and the Indigent

Poetry, Visual Art and Public Forum

Curated by

Benn Tedrus Feshbach Nadelman



"COWBOY 2" / LIVING ON THE EDGE
Luther E. Vann

Tompkins County Public Library

March 10 - May 24, 2012

Reception, Panel and Public Forum

Thursday, April 5

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Perspectives on Homelessness and the Indigent

Curator, Benn Tedrus Feshbach Nadelman

When engaged to create an exhibit for Tompkins County Public Library, my **ideas centered on “a chance to showcase beautiful, visual art”**.

The concept grew to include the written word; indeed a picture can be **“worth a thousand words” and conversely, the power of a single word can** excite a thousand images. Thus the exhibit broadened to include poetry.

I desired that *Perspectives on Homelessness and the Indigent* serve **the entire community and placed an “Open Call” for artists to welcome as** many points of view as the venue could attract, garner and accommodate.

This arena of discourse has yielded a broad and powerful exhibit which rings personally poignant and true and from which I hope you gain an informed educational and aesthetic experience.

Our moderator, panelists and presenters for the public forum represent service organizations, the arts, government and the community at large. All have graciously offered to share their experiences and engage in a dialogue with the public. On behalf of the community, I offer our sincere thanks and appreciation.

I am immensely proud of the many artists and poets who have bravely tackled so difficult a subject and in doing so through their labor and sharing, have engaged and educated us. I am indebted to each of you.

Special Thanks to Sally Grubb, Exhibit Coordinator for the Tompkins **County Public Library who welcomed this exhibit, to Loaves and Fishes’** Ron Poley, to Sarah Holmes and to everyone at the T.C. Human Services **Coalition for helping get the word out and to Ann Rhodes, who’s support,** encouragement and advice has been immeasurable in realizing the success of *Perspectives on Homelessness and the Indigent*.

- Benn Tedrus Feshbach Nadelman
Ithaca, New York - 2012

Visual Artists

Tom Bouchard

Ithaca, NY

"DREAM...home"

Acrylic/mixed media

Email: tbouchar@rochester.rr.com

"I work in a maximum security prison and have started to rethink the concept of 'home', something that many of us take for granted. I have been pursuing my art for awhile, but especially after being inspired by a class taught by Benn three years ago."

Elizabeth Bly Wolff & Jim Nagel

Brooktondale, NY

Title: to be determined

Wood

Wolff & Nagel

5 Canaan Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

(607) 539-6961

Websites: www.arttrail.com and www.ithacafinefurniture.com

"Homelessness. It's such a thin line, just a few degrees of separation, between having a place to lay your head and no place to call home. Just 1 lost job, 1 rising river, 1 case of cancer, mental illness or eviction from the unthinkable; homelessness."

Ryan Brennan

Ithaca, NY

"Welcome Home"

Acrylic on Canvas

Email: splinterbass5@yahoo.com

(281) 857-0176

Price on Request

"I started to excel in my career as an artist when I attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. I enrolled in the special fx make up program and all my art can be credited to my teachings there. Coming from a small town in New York, I was in shock at the number of homeless I saw walking the streets begging for money. I have never been so down and out that I had to beg for money but I can only imagine how hard it must be. After my time in Pittsburgh I landed a job in Houston, Texas doing make up for The Houston Ballet. While in Houston I saw many homeless and often gave my spare change to help. Faced with this subject I tried to think of what the homeless really think of the word 'HOME'. I hope that my art can signify what the less fortunate go through every day"

Ariel Bullion Ecklund

Ithaca, NY

"Home"

Etching

Email: ariel@cornersgallery.com

Private Collection, NFS

Amelia Burns

Ithaca, NY

"Mario"

Digital Print on Canvas

Website: www.ameliaburns.com

Email: ameliaburnsmania@gmail.com

\$350.00



Amelia Burns

Virginia Cobey

Ithaca, NY

"Winter on the Streets"

Oil

Email: chinook8183@juno.com

(607) 272-8183

\$800.00

Michael Robin Cooke

Ithaca, NY

"My Adventures Underemployed"

Ink on paper

Email: michaelrcooke@gmail.com - (607) 216-2292

Inquire for Price; Not initially intended for sale

"I heard of this project at Loaves & Fishes, and decided my story could be a legitimate addition and that I could present it well, being a cartoonist."

Valerie Humnicky

Seneca County, NY

"Christmas Prayer Story 2011: Gracious Alive"

Collage

Email: vjhumn@yahoo.com

(607) 532-4657

Price on Request

"I'm recuperating from ovarian cysts surgery. Total hysterectomy and appendix. Unemployed. Can't work as I did previously. Making a movie from one j peg. Picture taken at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at Christmas. Dressed for occasion. Body size drastically changed. Tumors benign. Drop foot reversing. Alive and flowing with the go! Seeking employment. Bureaucratic paperwork. Work in Tompkins County. Live in Seneca County. 22 miles from Ithaca. Finances in a major tumble. Regardless. Alive and better each day. **Still have a roof over my head."**

JoAnn Kingsley

Watkins Glen, NY

"Faith, Hope and Love"

Mixed Media

Website: [facebook.com/watkinsglenmassage](https://www.facebook.com/watkinsglenmassage)

Email: joannkingsley@earthlink.net

(607) 742-0568

\$95.00

Fernando Llosa

Trumansburg, NY

"Am I Not You ?"

Wall Sculpture (Stone, wood, metal,
seed pod)

Email: ferllosa@unboundart.com

(607) 387-9691

\$550.00



Fernando Llosa

Loretta Louviere

Ithaca, NY

"Where The Heart Is"

Mixed Media

Blog: www.theartmotel.wordpress.com

Email: loretta@TheArtMotel.net

(607) 387-9699

Price on Request

"Self taught with innumerable insistence from life."

Colleen McCutcheon

Ithaca, NY

Title and Medium to be Determined

Ithaca High School

Grade 12

Teacher: Carol Spence

Not for Sale

Alice Muhlback

Ithaca, NY

"It began with a window..."

Mixed Media

Website: www.spiritandkitsch.com

Email: alice@spiritandkitsch.com

(607) 272-0294

\$125.00

Bill Mutch

Slaterville Springs, NY

"If he's so down and out where'd he get the umbrella?"

Recent Silver Print from film negative ca.1970

Website: <http://printaphilic.wordpress.com>

Email: wmmutch@lightlink.com

3 copies available to anyone donating \$250 or more to Ithaca Health Alliance free clinic on Seneca St.

"Any one of a thousand events can shatter the chains of security which bind us to a normal life. We should never think we are immune. We may walk the knife edge every day."



Bill Mutch

Benn Tedrus Feshbach Nadelman

Ithaca, NY

"Home 1975"

Graphite on Paper

Website: www.NadelmanFineArt.com

Email: BennNadelman@me.com

Collection of the Artist - Price on Request

Diane Newton

Ithaca, NY

"On the Way to the Pine"

Pastel

Email: dianewton899@aol.com

\$2500.00

"My apartment in Boston is across the street from the Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in the South End of the city. So just about any time of the day or night there are men and women on the surrounding streets who are trying to get beds for the night and if the Pine is full, they are out on the street.

I can see these people from my apartment windows. Sometimes, they yell and fight with each other, they block traffic, they drink too much and fall down. Sometimes they give each other cigarettes and pet my dog when we pass. Mostly though, they just stand. Often I wonder how it is that they came to this corner. If I happen to look out at 2 or 3 in the morning, I am **glad when I don't see anyone on the corner.** I like to think they all got beds **for the night."**

Carol Spence

Newfield, NY

"Pray & Shiver"

Acrylic, Stencil, Collage

Email: cspence1378@aol.com

\$250.00

"passed in loneliness

pray & shiver

under a mound of blankets

the tragedians of the street

don't mind us

know

who we are"

Kim Schrag

Trumansburg, NY

“Fragile - Handle With Care”

Mixed Media

Email: schragk@gmail.com,

(607) 387-9691

Price: Accepting Offers

“The artistic metaphor may be inadequate for truly conveying the

complexity of homelessness. Each person will have their own story and path in and out of this situation. Those of us who are fortunate enough to be in a secure situation, can be open to seeing those who may be painfully visible or invisible and offering what we can. My piece for this exhibit is dedicated to my friends who were willing to help me during a difficult transition by offering their homes to stay in until my daughter and I found a place to live. Their willingness to be involved through their time, conversation, and resources allowed me to move out of a difficult **situation.”**



Kim Schrag

Ben Sherman

Spencer, NY

“What’s a Buck or Two (or Three or Four)”

Mixed Media

(607) 589-4408

Please see Price Explanation on the Wall Tag.

“I’ve created in the past, artworks that addressed issues of religion, rape, pornography, war and politics. A few, in retrospect, were effective and those few were successful only because of personal experience. But my perspective on homelessness and the indigent does not have the personal experience to create the ring of truth in the work.

My wife and I had studios a block away from New York’s Bowery (the Skid Row of the time). Homeless men and women slept in our alley and hallway. Families lived in boxes in midtown Manhattan. I helped the ambulance attendant load a jaundiced man, in the last stages of alcoholism, into the ambulance after lay comatose on our loading dock for two days; in full view of passersby. We had become hardened to the misery around us, I have to think because of our full bellies and the roof over our heads. I’m thankful it was not our experience.

The best I can do in an artwork, is a very direct statement of sharing, as a way of life; that would help those in need, both materially and spiritually.”

Daphne Solá

Ithaca, NY

“How did you get here?”

**Ink Drawing In collaboration with the poem, “Wander” by Sara Nadelman
Sola’ Gallery, 215 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Email: solagallery@gmail.com

(607) 272-6552

\$175.00

“Although I frequently work in color mediums, I thought that drawings in India Ink and reed pen the most expressive for the subject depicting a harsh life.”

Luther E. Vann

Savannah, GA

"COWBOY 2" / LIVING ON THE EDGE

Photomontage

Email: erlymornlt@netzero.net

\$800.00

"That day waiting for the bus I noticed him - "COWBOY" because of his dress. I watched as he went from group to group asking for a cigarette. No-one seemed to know him or seemed interested. We were almost next to each other, but he kept pacing, from the shadow to the light. Back and forth. Suddenly he stopped, looking straight ahead....He wanted some 'Smoke'.

The camera and I at those moments become one. The deeper movement of life and circumstance from this episode forced me to explore my past and that insanity of my living in the streets.

My 'Present' can no longer keep up with my bills, and as we speak I am in the process of filing for bankruptcy in order to save my house and the other thing, my Art. A lifetime of work and creativity."



Marian H. Van Soest

Ithaca, NY

"GUS AND FRIEND"

Pastel-enhanced archival print

Email: mham.vansoest@gmail.com

(607) 273-9235

\$150.00

Christopher A Wright, BA, MA, PhD

Ithaca, NY

“Ohnegegenliebe, 1987” and

“Gates of Hell (Cold Turkey from Alcohol), 1985”

Toned Silver Gelatin Prints

Website: www.visionsinsilver.com

Email: cawright42@gmail.com

(607) 272-9050

Prices on request



Christopher Wright

“Taken over a period of thirty years. using antique large-format cameras and a variety of processes including: silver gelatin sheet and roll-film, calotype and collodion negatives; salted, albumen, cyanotype, argyrotypes, energiatype and silver gelatin prints, my photographs are meditations, happening when an important event or studied observation may reveal a deeper symbolic significance.”

Eli Wright

Ithaca, NY

Untitled Painting

Contact via Email: veterans.sanctuary@gmail.com

Price on Request

Poets and Writers

Story Boyle

Miami, FL

"Someone Else's Problem"

Not yet Published

Website: www.storyboyle.com

Email: story.boyle@gmail.com

Miami, Florida

"The way news reports approach 'the problem of homelessness' takes all the humanity out of the people who navigate those dire circumstances. There isn't just one image of 'the homeless person,' but you wouldn't know that from the news. I quoted the *Sun Sentinel's* July 29, 2009 *FloriDUH* column 'Another New York invasion — homeless heading here' by Barbara Hijek and December 19, 2011 article titled 'Fort Lauderdale may buy one-way bus tickets for homeless looking to leave city' by Larry Barszewski to highlight how dry and uncaring this coverage is."

Qadira P. Garger

Ithaca, NY

"A PROLETARIAN MOTHER SPEAKS: 'Freeing Ourselves From Homelessness'" (writing as Nadezhda K. Krupskaya)

and

"Horror"

Email: qadira@verizon.net

Nicole Goodwin

New York City, NY

"My Brother, My Keeper?" and "After the War"

Author's personal collection

Email: ngoodwin07@yahoo.com

(347) 267-6943

Nicole Goodwin was the recent recipient of City's College's The Riggs Gold Medal Essay Award. A single mother, she earned her Bachelor's of Arts in English and Anthropology from City College of New York in June of 2011. She has performed at the V-Day Poetry Benefit Concert, the Defenders of Love Benefit, and has served as a panelist for the 2009 National Black Writers Conference & Bi-Annual Symposium. A fellow of the North Country Institute and Retreat for Writers of Color, her writings have appeared in several publications, including *We Got Issues: A Young Woman's Guide To A Bold Underwired Magazine*, the *Voices of Israel Anthology*, and City College's *Global City Review*. She is the former editor of the *Escriba/Write*, winner of the 2006 CCHA Eastern Region Small Journal Award.

Mario Hernandez

Ithaca, NY

"The Gimlet and the Star" and "The Sacred Heart of Poverty"

Author's personal collection.

Email: bloodmario@gmail.com

"The page is my white garment, and writing is my face."

Katharyn Howd Machan

Ithaca, NY

"Homeless by Choice, Her Daughter Leaves Her"

Publication: *Freshwater*, 2012

Email: machan@ithaca.edu

(607) 273-3744

P.O. Box 456, Ithaca, NY 14851-0456

Katharyn Howd Machan was born in Woodbury, Connecticut, in 1952. Her poems have appeared in numerous magazines, anthologies, and textbooks, including *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, and in 30 collections, most recently *Belly Words: Poems of Dance* (Split Oak Press, 2009) and *When She's Asked to Think of Colors* (Palettes & Quills Press, 2009). A professor in the Department of Writing at Ithaca College in central New York, in 2002 she was named Tompkins County's first Poet Laureate.

Erik Lehmann - Founder and Change Agent, Dream Catalyst

Ithaca, NY

“Letter to My Parents”

Website: www.dream-catalyst.org

Email: erik@dream-catalyst.org

(607) 592-9025

“When I learned about the opportunity to take part in this exhibit, my heart glowed! Benn’s mission to create a space for folks who care deeply about homelessness is in full alignment with the world I wish to co-create. It is imperative, that, at this time of great change; all voices are celebrated and given light. This is what this exhibit is to me. It is an opportunity to create, share and spread light with our community. I believe that we all want to make a contribution to this planet. We were all born with something unique to add. Benn’s vision creates an uncommon space for unique expression of light and perspective. **The Library’s decision not to censor or edit our expression is greatly appreciated. Our collective understanding will expand more freely when we know that we will not be filtered or censored. Life is lived uncut. **Thank you.**”**

Nathan Lewis

Ithaca, NY

“My Body Knows”

from **“Colors of Trees We Couldn’t Name”**

Email: lewisredleg@yahoo.com

(716) 531 5362

\$50.00 - **“Colors of Trees We Couldn’t Name”: Collection of poetry by Nathan Lewis containing “My Body Knows” and “Sic”.**

“I like to put poetry onto paper made from my military uniforms. We call it Combat Paper. I have three books published and two of them are bound with Combat Paper. (*I Hacky Sacked in Iraq*, Combat Paper Press, 2009. *Colors of Trees We Couldn’t Name*, Combat Paper Press, 2012.) Writing poetry about my experience in the Army can be a very empowering exercise. I’ve been writing since I got out of the Army in 2003. To date, I’ve received more hours of instruction on land mines than poetry, but I’ve been blessed to be surrounded by so many amazing artists. I’m constantly **inspired to keep writing by my peers.”**

Eric Machan Howd

Ithaca, NY

“The Book Burners”

Unpublished

Email: emh89@cornell.edu

Jerry Mirskin

Ithaca, NY

“Daylight Illuminated”

Email: mirskin@ithaca.edu

Jerry Mirskin won the MAMMOTH Books Prize for Poetry for his first full-length collection, *Picture a Gate Hanging Open and Let that Gate be the Sun*. *In Flagrate Delicto* is his second full-length book. Born in the Bronx, he has lived in California, Wisconsin and Maine, and has worked as a herdsman on a dairy farm, as a carpenter, and as a New York State Poet-in-the-Schools. He is an Associate Professor of Writing at Ithaca College. Samples of his writing and more information can be found on his website: www.jerrymirskin.us

Jim Murphy

Ithaca, NY

“Federal Veterans’ Benefits 1971”

Ithaca Veterans Peace Council - VFP-VVAW-MFSO-FOR-IVAW

Email: jvetsfor@gmail.com

(607) 319-0980

“What many veterans are left with after years have elapsed from the experience of being in a war and their return home, can be best described as clear but fleeting images. Seeing my veteran brothers sleeping on the grates of the buildings on Independence and Constitution Avenues is always with me. These images are a constant reminder of the sadness of war and how good fortune is somehow based in luck. I served in Vietnam for a minute in 1966 and returned for the year 1968 in mobile comm (MOB).”

Sara Nadelman

Boston, MA
Untitled Poem (Wanderer)
Email: snadelman@gmail.com

Jennifer Pacanowski

Ithaca, NY
"We are not your Heros" and "I Keep Moving"
Website: jennifer.pacanowski@facebook.com
Email: jennybox22@yahoo.com
(570) 269-7528.
Not for Sale

"I consider homelessness and addiction issues to be connected. These poems reflect the battle veterans face upon returning home and transitioning back into society. The toll of war has changed their soul, beliefs, values and personality and they are no longer the same person they were before their combat experiences. While dealing with this inner turmoil some turn to self-medication and fall into despair and isolation. The end result being homelessness losing everything they vowed to protect and fight for.

Daphne Solá

Ithaca, NY
"Hesitation" and "Two Frozen Feet" with Accompanying Drawings
Solá Gallery, 215 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY 148550
Email: solagallery@gmail.com
(607) 272-6552

Sandra Warner

Ithaca, NY
"Pain" and "The Petals"
Not yet Published
Email: sandrawarner72@yahoo.com
(607) 589-6482

Danielle Winterton

Ithaca, NY

“You and I Are Being Extracted”

Published on The Landscape Press on January 3, 2012.

Website: Essays & Fictions (www.essaysandfictions.com) - Landscape Press (www.landscapepress.com).

Email: dwinterton@ithaca.edu

“I am interested in how poverty “disappears” people. I believe that humans are inherently social and cannot thrive without affirmation and inclusion in supportive networks. Downward mobility slowly erodes network ties: if people can't spend, it becomes much more difficult for them to participate in social activity. Bodies are the resources of corporate capitalism. If bodies are not productive, consuming, or profit-generating, they are slowly phased out through poor health, imprisonment, marginalization, addiction. Census data focuses on shelter rates, but it does not account for people living in their cars or doubling up in family housing. Politicians vie to represent the middle class, but the poor are invisible in debate discourse. When poverty or homelessness occur, the corporate feeding frenzy is complete, and the body is discarded, left to suffer. The harm of lost potential, the cost to the individual and society, is too high to measure.”

Anonymous

“Little Man’s Song” - New Years Eve 2011

“Big Man’s Lament” - New Years Day 2012

Unpublished

Contact Information via Curator - Email: BennNadelman@me.com

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2012

This exhibit is made possible in part
by grant support from the
Community Arts Partnership
of Tompkins County



101 East Green Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
607 272.4557 - <http://tcpl.org>