

# Press Release - May 2009



## **My favorites in this year's ART to the Avenue exhibit – when Greenwich Avenue becomes a strolling gallery**

May 23, 2009 at 4:24 pm by [Lincoln Millstein](#)

The juncture of art and commerce can too often result in crass exploitation. Las Vegas comes to mind.

But the marriage of art and a place with its own strong aesthetic identity can produce a compelling and felicitous experience. Greenwich Avenue is such a place. The fine works of 120 artists who are in this year's Greenwich Art Council's ART to the Avenue come alive in some unexpected ways with retailers who understand their true value.

At its best, the art combines a store's own strong design sensibility to create a new experience in the enhanced storefront environment. The result can be breath-taking. This year, many efforts are worth noting. We should be grateful to the arts council for sponsoring this creative and mutually beneficial partnership – for both storeowners and artists.

And we should be grateful to retailers, such as Sleepy's at 159 West Putnam Ave., for giving opportunity to local artists like JoAnn O'Hara whose seascapes of Greenwich Point are spiritually uplifting.

The show ends on May 31. The arts council is at 299 Greenwich Ave. Call 203-862-6750 to purchase art.

The following are my favorites:

**BEST OF SHOW, LF Stores, 319 Greenwich Avenue, Monika Nicolle artist**



I defy anyone to walk by this store without staring back at the two eyes that appear to penetrate our inner souls. It's kinda creepy. Actually, it's very creepy. I have a weakness for strong, dark, angular art forms, and this certainly fits the bill. I'll take Goya, Picasso (his blue period) any time over the muted impressionists. To my mind, Monet was just an average gardener who couldn't find the primary colors in his paint box.

The artist is a Mamaroneck resident. The core of her painting is focused on faces and colors, with a particular fascination for eyes. For her, "Eyes are like an entrance to the inside of a person; a transparent door to one's soul".