

# ART THAT LETS YOU KNOW WHERE IT'S COMING FROM

Abraham Ferraro's 'Which Way' at Lake George Arts Project's Courthouse Gallery

By Anthony F. Hall

Last week, eccentrically shaped packages, emblazoned with boldly colored handling instructions, some provided by the US Postal Service itself, began arriving at the Lake George Arts Project's Courthouse Gallery on Lower Amherst Street.

They were void of content. Or, rather, the packages themselves were the contents. They were pieces of sculpture to be included in Abraham Ferraro's new installation, "Which Way," which opened at the Courthouse Gallery on September 25.

Ferraro, who lives and works in

the Albany area, was in Lake George on Friday to start assembling the installation.

Ferraro has a background as both a performance artist and a sculptor of large, site-specific pieces that cannot be installed or disassembled without the aid of construction crews.

"The mail-able sculptures are a solution to problems posed by the massive sculptures. I wanted to be able to move them. Why not mail them?" Ferraro said as he surveyed the scores of the pieces spread across the gallery floor.

That solution presented itself somewhat serendipitously. Several



years ago, Ferraro was invited to participate in a group show in Scotland called "In Transit," intended to explore themes of travel and connections, missed or otherwise.

Ferraro's contribution was an empty parcel which he posted to the gallery and which the show's curators placed on a pedestal.

That single piece evolved into a series called "Directions." Since 2011, the series has grown to include more than 100 separate works of mail-able sculpture, exhibited together but in arrangements dictated by the peculiarities of the gallery space.

"While "Directions" is about how art moves from one place to another, it's also about how ideas are transmitted and how those ideas move through one artist's work, morphing and changing over time," said Ferraro. "One of the advantages of mailing these pieces is they



pieces, Ferraro also discovered a new palette.

"As a sculptor, color for me was unpainted steel and wood. I'm enjoying the colors of the packing stickers. I feel like I'm painting with them or, at the very least, appropriating them as a Pop Artist might. I spend a lot of time searching the internet for the unusual packing sticker," he said.

Ferraro earned his BFA from SUNY Fredonia and MFA from SUNY Albany. He now teaches sculpture at the College of Saint Rose in Albany.

"We have a rich artistic culture in upstate New York. SUNY Albany has produced a lot of very good painters, and many of them are doing very well. I like being part of that community," said Ferraro.

Ferraro's "Which Way," will remain on view at the Courthouse Gallery through October 30. For information, call 668-2616.



Photos by Cheri Bordelon

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