

CONCOURSE GALLERY**Paper takes center stage in exhibit**By **NATE ELLIS*****ThisWeek Community News***Sunday September 1, 2013 6:55 PM

The paper-based creations of national and international artists are featured in the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Division's latest Concourse Gallery exhibit.

"Trans-fiber & Paper" will be on display through Oct. 25 in the Concourse Gallery at the Upper Arlington Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road.

Curated by artists Char Norman and Elena Osterwalder, the gallery is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The current exhibit showcases a variety of artwork from throughout the world, with the common medium being paper.

"The curators for this show, Elena Osterwalder and Char Norman, were asked to share their vision with the Concourse Gallery because of their commitment to the arts," said Lynette Santoro-Au, Upper Arlington's cultural arts manager. "Char and Elena have worked in fiber for many years and are well-respected in the field. Their combined knowledge and passion for the arts will give this exhibit a unique voice and we are grateful for their efforts.

"We are thrilled to be showing so many different versions of the same medium," she said. "Some of the works are large while others are small. Some include dying of the paper, some rely on light and shadow and the paper itself to create drama."

The Concourse Gallery has served as a central public location to exhibit art in Upper Arlington for more than 40 years.

Throughout 2013, the gallery space has featured exhibitions of everything from paintings and sculptures to photography.

To supplement the gallery, the city's cultural arts division and the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Commission will host a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at the gallery.

"At the reception, we'll be able to meet many of the artists and get a tour of the works led by the curators," Santoro-Au said. "Much of the work is created by international artists who cannot travel for the reception; nonetheless, the curators will be able to speak about the works chosen and why."

Additionally, the cultural arts division has scheduled two "Exploration into Papermaking" workshops to be led by Gibby Waitzkin, a Virginia artist and art teacher whose work will be on display as part of the Concourse Gallery.

Those workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 21 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Upper Arlington Recreation Station, 4737 Coach Road.

"Participants will explore the process of papermaking using ancient and innovative techniques," Santoro-Au said. "Gibby will guide the participants through: demonstration about plant fibers; fiber harvesting and prep; pulling and pouring sheets; composition and layout; pulp painting; embedding of objects -- fabric, lace, feathers, thin ribbons, seeds, botanicals -- in small pieces of paper; photographs printed on cotton or rag paper.

"Gibby's brand of hand papermaking involves growing and harvesting the plant fibers and flowers, shredding, cooking, beating and pouring the pulp, photography, digital printing and composition," she said.

The cost of the workshops is \$75 per person, and participants should bring a packed

lunch. Participation is limited to 15, and registration must be completed by Sept. 12.

Registration can be done online by accessing the city's Activity Guide at uaoh.net. The course number is 144700.

"Participants will also press their own flowers in advance of the workshops and further instructions are available once registration is complete," Santoro-Au said. "All plants need to be pressed for at least two weeks before the workshop. If not, they could mold in paper."

Additional information regarding the Concourse Gallery and the workshops is available through the "Cultural Arts" link on the city's website or by calling the cultural arts division at 614-583-5310.