

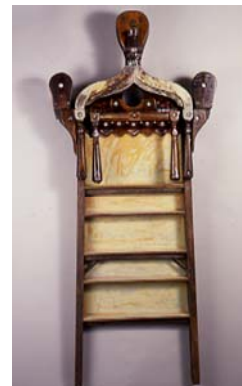
# "Haven't We Met Before?"

## A Personal Look at Recycling: Resurrected Materials, New Functions & Artistic Outcomes Curated by Victoria Romanoff & Sarah Adams

Featuring: Diane Cohen, Paul Colucci,  
Alice Gant, Kenny Lang, John Fuchs, Andrew Thurnheer,  
Victoria Romanoff and Sarah Adams



*Paul Colucci*



*Victoria Romanoff*

On Display at  
Tompkins County Public Library  
October through December 2007

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Paul Colucci  
Sculptor, painter, Designer  
217 Utica St  
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607 277-0290  
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As an artist, I am continually working on painting and sculpture, ranging from fine art to functional art using reclaimed materials. As a designer, I am involved in the visioning process in which I facilitate, through collaboration with the client, the creation of an environment that reflects the vision they have for the space where they live or work. Through the collaborative process I gain a sense of connectedness with people as I share my gift.



# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Diane Cohen  
Program Director, Significant Elements  
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607 280-2897  
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[www.significantelements.org](http://www.significantelements.org)

Diane Cohen has been managing Significant Elements since January 2001, when Historic Ithaca (a building preservation organization) was invited by Tompkins County Solid Waste to expand its volunteer-run architectural salvage program in order to help reduce the volume of building materials entering the waste stream. Diane is currently working with Tompkins County and various other community partners to develop a Reuse Center for the area, as a means to more effectively reduce waste and provide skill-building and training opportunities. The Reuse Center will include building materials, computers, appliances, furniture, household goods, textiles, and more. One of the key programs of this new effort will be a Deconstruction Service, in which whole buildings, such as houses and old barns, will be dismantled by hand and the materials will be salvaged for reuse.



# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Alice Gant  
Narrative Banner Builder  
PO Box 653  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
gcaffee@gmail.com

Alice Gant makes narrative, fabric banners about her personal heroes. These can be seen in many collections in the North East. Her hero banner "Why was he Naïve?" featuring the folk artist Edward Hicks, can be seen in the Youth Services Department here at Tompkins County Public Library.

The cloth she uses is often recycled from clothing, drapes or scraps she is given. The banner she has included in this show, is a departure from her normal fiber art. Here she has chosen to work with paint and plastic seed sacks.

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Victoria Romanoff  
Artists, Restoration and Design Consultant  
1012 N. Tioga St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607 273-5796  
[www.vromanoffandAssociates.com](http://www.vromanoffandAssociates.com)

## Artist's Mission (impossible) Statement

I like to conjure up lost civilizations, improbable resorts, crumbling monuments, over-the-top architectural follies, opinionated statutory and other imaginary settings.

Along with that, I enjoy puncturing pomposity and do my best to lead the viewer astray with absurd but hopefully humorous titles.

My sculpture is always built from recycled elements: discarded wood, architectural remnants, cardboard tubes, old ropes, washboards and other flotsam and jetsam. The paper mosaics, as well, are reborn from scraps cut out of previous creations. My studio at the old No. 7 Fire Station gives me the luxury of uncensored collecting and storage.

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Kenny Lang  
Metal Fabricator  
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Spencer, NY 14883  
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[KDog@yahoo.com](mailto:KDog@yahoo.com)

I have worked in metal fabrication for over a decade, at Ben Weitzman and Accufab, both shops at Cherry Street Industrial Park, Ithaca. My custom fabricated. Stainless steel railings adorn several local residences. I have also designed and built chandeliers, gates, and many ornamental details in various materials. The Guitar was tig or fusion welded, showing no seams, and was created from shop scraps.

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

Andrew Thurnheer  
Danby Highway Superintendent, Pilot,  
Elephant Whisperer  
In A Treehouse  
172 Hill Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607 273-3930

Growing up on a farm in Danby, I learned early to be self sufficient and capable. My father taught me how to weld when I was ten; a lifelong passion was born. We also had to know some structural engineering, construction, weather patterns, animal husbandry and many other skills basic to an agricultural life.

Today I recycle everything.....old trucks, bicycles, cars, planes. My shops are built from many old shipping crates, stacked, cut, re-arranged and highly functional.

In my spare time I visit, on a regular basis, Sri Lanka, where I am trying to entice an elephant to come live with me.

Photos taken and poster designed by  
Sarah Adams in collaboration with  
Joe Scaglione.

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

John Fuchs  
220 Cherry St  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607 277-4745

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Almost a native (conceived not born here), John Fuchs has mis-spent most of his life in Ithaca and fully intends to grow up here. He continues to postpone his artistic endeavors by obsessively devoting himself to the non-stop production of widgets, a by-product of which are the plywood cut-offs from which these skyscraper (scrapscraper?) models are stack-laminated.

Anyone interested in trying the method is begged by Mister Fuchs to please relieve him of a pile of scraps now available at the Real Deals Dollar Store (10 for \$1) or directly from the Widget Factory at 220 Cherry Street.

# "Haven't We Met Before?"

## Curators' Statement



*Sarah Adams & Victoria Romanoff*

The primary focus of the exhibition is salvaging and recycling in Ithaca and Tompkins County seen through the eyes of local artists. The visual imagery includes sculpture, furniture, photographs, videos, posters and models.

The philosophy of recycling thrives in our community not only through city and county agencies, but also in the shops and studios of many gifted artists and craftspeople. The Greater Ithaca Art Trail takes us to many of these talented individuals, but this exhibition focuses on some of the other, more hidden creators, working in a variety of locations around Tompkins County. The seven participants in "Haven't we met before?" are all avid bricoleurs who take leftovers, trash, surpluses and other forlorn resources and configure them back into new, usable objects - some functional, other beautiful to look at, and many, both.

**Diane Cohen**, Director of Significant Elements, participated in the New Orleans cleanup after Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Her video tape of a house dismantling, which she helped deconstruct, from roofing shingles, siding, windows and doors right down to the 2 x 4 framing will be shown as a continuous slide presentation.

**Paul Colucci**, a new face in town, brings innovative and exciting concepts, building attractive interiors made entirely from scrap wood, old studs, discarded metal roofs. He refinishes the creations in organic sealers, leaving not only highly artistic creations, but also

healthy ones. The Red Feet Wine Market and the new Home Green Home store on the Commons are among his most recent accomplishments.

**Alice Gant** is well-known for her cloth, rag, and yarn constructions, which in her capable hands become elegant wall hangings depicting moments in history, ornate birds in their natural settings, and splendid landscapes.

**Kenny Lang**, ace welder, was employed at Ben Weitzman & son and is now at Accufab, Inc., both metal fabrication shops in Ithaca. He has both designed and put together handsome chandeliers, railings, gates, and other ornate objects from scraps and cut-offs.

Danby Highway Superintendent **Andrew Thornheer** converts cars into airplanes, bicycles into tractors, cargo boxes into storage and housing – his imagination has no parameters, he truly thinks outside the box.

The widget builder of Cherry Street Industrial Park, **John Fuchs**, also a musician, carpenter, and designer, assembles “scrapscrapers” from materials left over in his shop productions. He is equally at ease constructing light fixtures, furniture, and numerous functional gizmos full of humor and charm.

Co-curators **Victoria Romanoff** and **Sarah Adams** are the principal partners in V. Romanoff and Associates Restoration and Design Consultants. They have lived in recycled buildings, the A.D. 1883 Barn in Newfield, N.Y., in Ithaca a brick gothic cottage, built in 1884, on Marshall street and, most recently, the decommissioned 1885 fire station on Tioga Street. They are literally galloping into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Their restoration and consulting work has taken them all over New York State, New England, and the West Indies. Sarah Adams is also a photographer. Victoria Romanoff is a painter and sculptor.