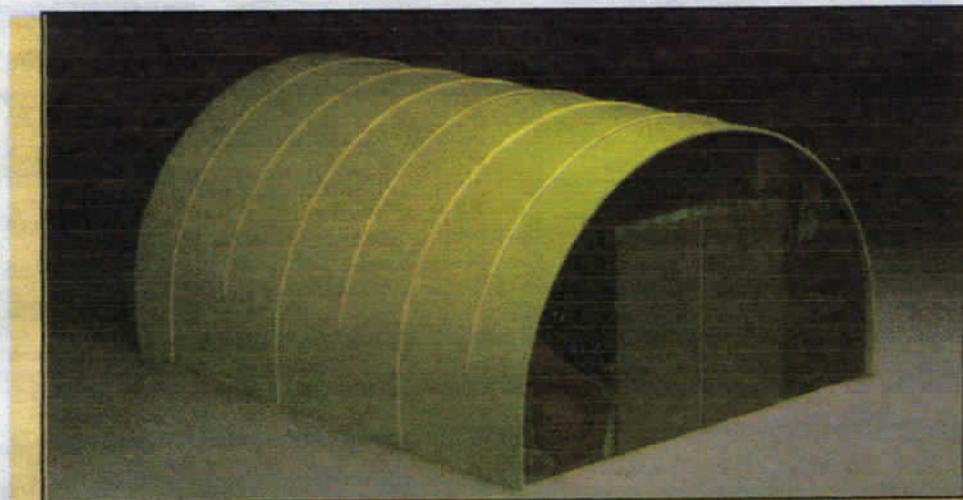


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THE GEORGETOWN ART WRAP



By John Blee

Jack Rasmussen is an energetic and inspiring presence in the DC art community and has been for more than a quarter century. He now heads the Katzen Arts Center (4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Tues. - Thurs. 11-4, Fri. - Sat. 11-7, Sun 12-4, parking is available under the building) and has worked with five young curators on The Real (Art) World. Several well-known Washington area artists are included in the show, which has at its center an explosive conjunction of Genna Watson's figures. Watson's work is always dreamlike, almost nightmarish.

There are ladders and chairs combined with the figures. One figure is literally metamorphosing into a bird. There is a being floating above it all. Watson's work is skewed to expressive purpose, making it move into a deeper realm.

The calm classicism of Marie Ringwald is perfect in its form. Nicole Ferdinando, Ringwald's curator, writes that Ringwald "turns utilitarian buildings into poetic association." It's a miracle to read a blurb in a museum that is more than utilitarian!

Ringwald's work is tactile whether painted wood or metal. Her "Green Warehouse" is a fantasy architectural model transformed into art. What one can forget about Ringwald is how much a colorist she is. It is very much apparent in the works in this show, but nowhere more than in the lime "Green Quonset Hut."

Other artists in the show include Ariel Goldberg with photographs of people watching television; it is possibly more a comment on contemporary life than the artist intended. Landscapes by Jiha Moon rely on the linear rendering and less on the washed color that seems to be quite secondary. There are as well Dave D'Orio's blown glass vessels. (Through August 20.)

