

Feminist Warhol

What do Emily Dickinson, Frida Kahlo, and Julia Child have in common? Besides possessing plenty of feminist chutzpah, their portraits were all painted by the same Piermont artist, Natasha Rabin, whose exhibition, “Luminous Women,” is currently on display at the Flywheel Gallery. “These are individuals whose courage, wisdom, and energy have inspired me throughout the years,” says Rabin. Yet not every image depicts a famous face. Hanging next to the painting of Sophia Coppola—which has excerpts from her Academy Award-winning screenplay for *Lost in Translation* inked onto the background—you’ll find figures of a Benedictine nun, a bilingual 3rd grade teacher, and Rabin’s great grandmother.

Each of the 30 pieces, created over a single year, incorporates collage with acrylic paint to form a complex exhibit of mixed-media works. In one piece, for example, Rabin’s grandmother wears a ruffled blouse. From a distance, the shirt appears three-dimensional, and upon closer inspection you realize why: It was fashioned from dry rose petals.



ABOVE: Frida Kahlo RIGHT: Sofia Coppola
BOTTOM: Julia Child

Much like Andy Warhol, whose body of portrait work includes royalty, movie stars, and his mother, Rabin’s images may one day serve as a record of her era and surroundings. “Rockland County is a wonderful place to be if you’re an artist,” she says. “I’m constantly inspired by the things I see around me” (4/20-5/7; 223 Ash St.; Piermont; 365-6411). —FM.

