

# Community News

## National Sampling At Expo XIX

By Peter Sloggatt

The verdict is in. Or should we say verdicts?

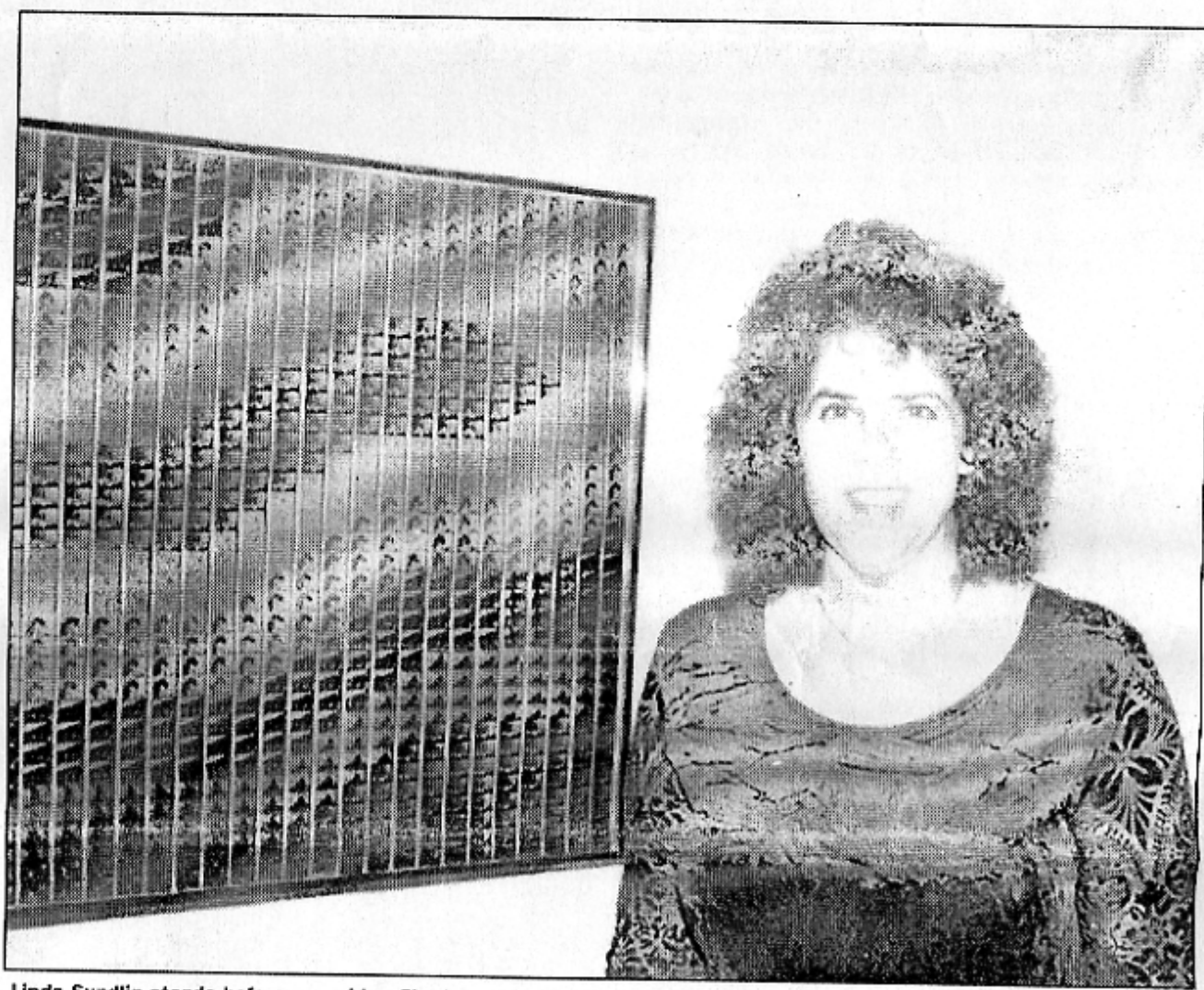
Expo XIX, the millennium edition of b.j. spoke gallery's annual juried exposition, is featuring thought-provoking works by five artists selected from an international field of entrants. The works represent a variety of media with an emphasis on sculptural representations. In fact, three of the winners in the show explore the third dimension with their works.

This year's call for entries drew nearly 300 entrants from across the nation, according to gallery president Beverly Feigenbaum. The winners were selected by Beth Venn, an assistant curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Her selections came down to five artists, including two "locals." Connie Lagakis Robinson of West Orange, New Jersey is a former resident and, in fact, a former Expo winner. Her intimate-sized digital photography uses a new medium to explore what for her is an ongoing theme — the dance and play of reflected light.

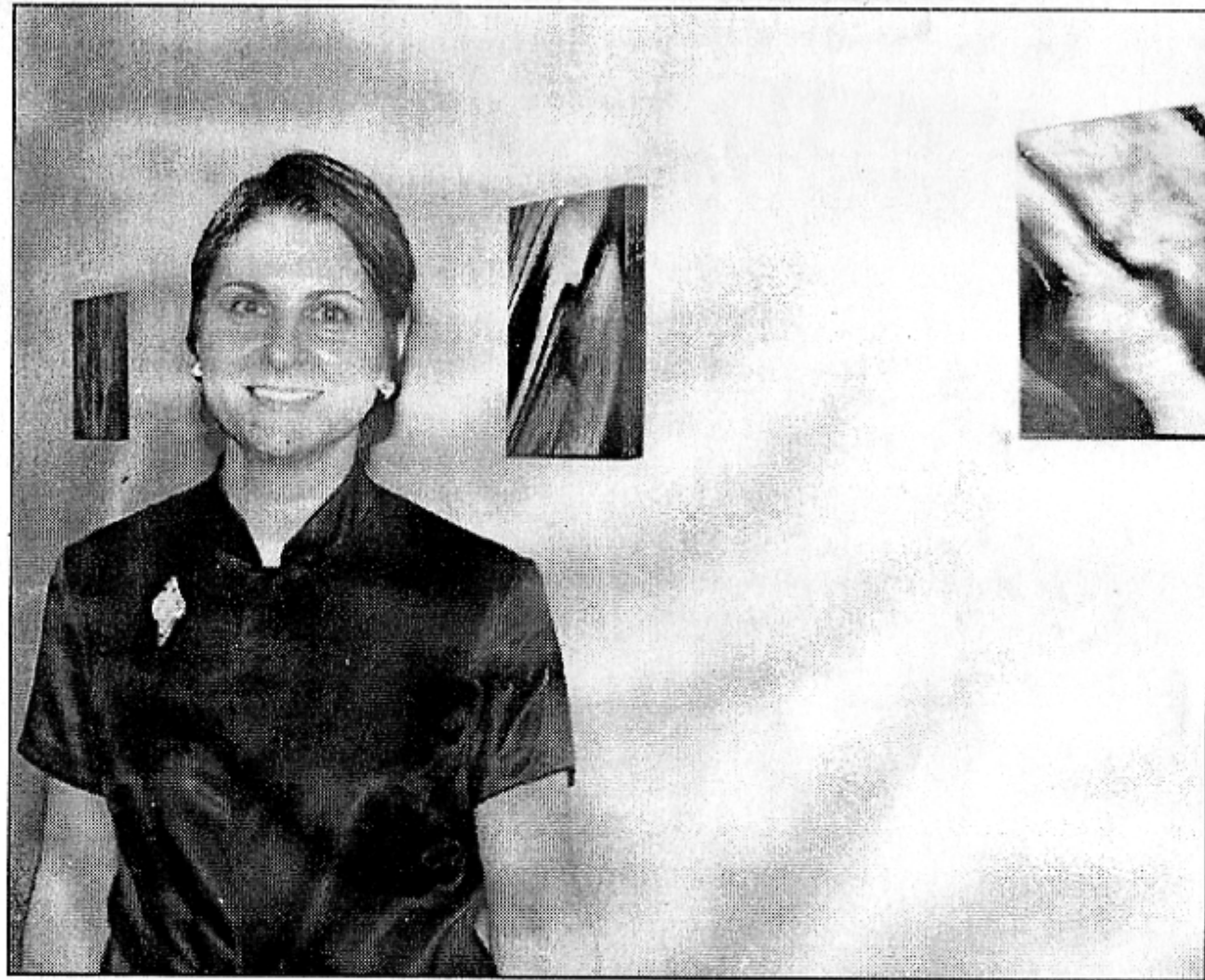
Using a digital camera, Lagakis photographs light reflections on whatever surface they happen to fall, be it a windowsill, tabletop or fishbowl. She then manipulates the images digitally, sometimes enlarging only a small area. The result is an abstract pattern of color and tone which in some cases takes on landscape-like qualities. The final image is printed on canvas giving the piece a painterly quality.

The theme is not a new one to Lagakis, who is also currently exploring light and reflections with larger pastel drawings. "I think of the light reflections like visitations," she said.

Lagakis is a two-time Expo winner, her work having been shown several years ago. She entered this year



Linda Sundlin stands before one of her film tapestries on display as part of Expo XIX.



Two-time Expo winner Connie Legakis Robinson stands beside her digital prints of light reflections.

Long-Islander Photos/Peter Sloggatt

after running into the gallery president at a show. "She said, 'Why don't you submit to Expo?' " Some time later, when the call for entries came, "it was like there was a little voice in my head."

Another former resident showing at Expo XIX is Los Angeles, California artist Linda Sundlin. The former Woodbury resident is showing her unique "film tapes-tries," lightbox constructions which use discarded film prints of Hollywood movies.

Sundlin works in the film industry as an editor, giving her access to discarded prints and cutting-room floor scraps. Her patented process uses these scraps as tile-like elements in a mosaic which depicts an image from the film or theme with which she is working. The *Wizard of Oz*, for instance, reads from a distance as a central image of a pig-tailed Dorothy. Up close, the viewer recognizes scenes from the movie, even at their small 16mm size.

"I was working for so many years as a film editor, I never thought of any other use for it," said Sundlin of her medium. It hit her while living in Copenhagen some years ago and she saw film strips used as a curtain in someone's apartment. The curtain was backlit, bringing into play the rich colors and imagery of the films' subjects.

The remaining artists are out-of-towners:

Carol Barom-Hays from Columbus, Ohio, uses cement and found metal to create her sculptures; Jean Paul Bourdier of Berkeley, California, creates photo sculptures; and Brenda Garand of Enfield, New Jersey creates her sculptural forms using roofing paper.

A reception at the gallery opened the exhibition last Sunday. The 26 members of the cooperative gallery will act as hosts for the event.

Expo XIX is on view at b.j. spoke gallery, 299 Main St., Huntington, through March 19.