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## EXHIBIT | ART ACCESS GALLERY

# Works share ability to let viewer escape

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FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Vibrant and sumptuous, "It's All About Color" in Art Access Gallery is aptly named.

Featuring works by Ellen O'Connell Bazzoli, M. Katherine Hurley and Paula Rubinstein, the show oozes the "good life" observed, recorded and offered as respite from a weary world.

Using translucent encaustic wax, Bazzoli makes seductive abstract paintings. Her images — created through a slow, methodical layering of melted wax and pigment — look as if they are submerged in water and suggest both depth and flatness. Most of her pieces resemble living, growing things. While their meanings may be elusive, their titles, such as *Spring 2011*, point to ideas of source and rebirth.

Many works rely on pleasing complementary palettes. In *Reed 7020*, Bazzoli uses cartoonlike drawings inserted in a simple orange and blue geometric composition.



ABOVE: *Slices of Granny Smith* by Paula Rubinstein

RIGHT: *Spring 2011* by Ellen O'Connell Bazzoli

Hurley, a student of contemporary American artist Wolf Kahn, delivers pastel landscapes that are luminous interpretations of the natural world. Often blurring edges, she allows colors to merge with expansive boundaries. Warms and cools overlap,

▶ "It's All About Color: New Work by Ellen O'Connell Bazzoli, M. Katherine Hurley, Paula Rubinstein" continues through May 1 in Art Access Gallery, 540 S. Drexel Ave., Bexley. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call 614-338-8325 or visit [www.artaccessgallery.com](http://www.artaccessgallery.com).



suggesting air and space.

In *Relationships II*, sunlight low on the horizon illuminates two small farm buildings. Light cascades across the tops of trees in an

evocative orchestration of brilliant clarity and deep shadow. The scene is a transitory moment of nostalgia and longing.

Rubinstein paints at a summer home near Lake Chautauqua in New York. Her simple observations of interior spaces and still lifes feel immediate and spontaneous, as if discovered by surprise. A corner of a room, a table set for lunch or a bouquet of flowers signal a life of ease and an enjoyment of "the simple things."

French painter Pierre Bonnard said, "Draw your pleasure, paint your pleasure and express your pleasure strongly." Rubinstein seems to live this idea in her work. While we can certainly dwell on her dramatic orchestrations of complementary colors, fluid brushstrokes and graceful compositions, each piece is really about the pleasure of experience.

The three artists are traveling separate creative paths, but their works harmonize seamlessly. "It's All About Color" is perfect visual escapism.