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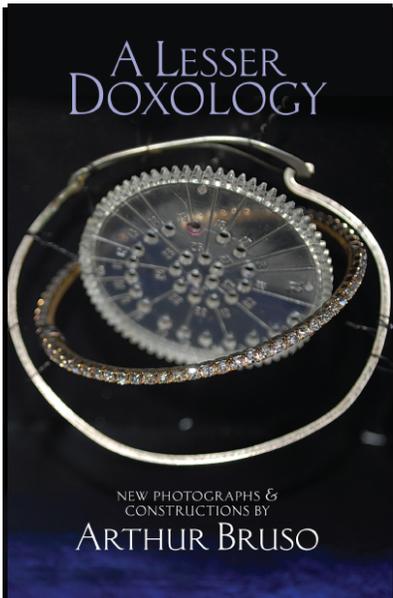
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Photography for the heavens

Artist uses discarded items to ponder universe

by Sean Allocca Jul 15, 2010 | 854 views | 0 comments | 4 likes | [email](#) | [print](#)
 Reporter correspondent



“As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end,” is a quotation from the hymn called the Lesser Doxology recited during the Christian liturgy. Jersey City photographer Arthur Bruso’s new exhibit, entitled “A Lesser Doxology,” looks for a higher meaning in everyday, often discarded, items like department store toy boxes and broken pieces of jewelry.

Running through Aug. 30 at Curious Matter, 272 Fifth St. in Jersey City, Bruso’s works include photographs and small constructions. They can be viewed Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. and by appointment.

“Most of what we know about the universe comes from mathematical models,” Bruso said, “not direct observation. Cosmological themes lend themselves to conceptual interpretation.”

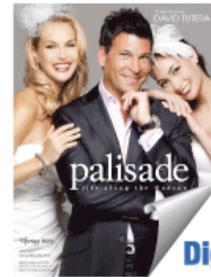
“Cosmological themes lend themselves to conceptual interpretation.” – Arthur Bruso

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One of Bruso’s four miniature models – called “sculptural box constructions” – is titled “Galaxy,” and is made from a Spirograph wheel, a rhinestone earring, and a twisted bracelet. “I take found objects and put them together in certain ways that communicate ideas,” Bruso said.

In addition to the models, nine photographs are on display at the gallery. A photographer from the early age of 6, Bruso uses advanced photographic techniques, like double exposure, flash glare and blur, to give the work an “enigmatic quality.”

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“People always want to know where you took a photograph,” Bruso said. “But the ‘where’ isn’t what’s important. It’s the ‘what,’ or how it’s composed – the idea behind it.”

Bruso’s black and white photos are haunting and often surreal, capturing real objects in striking and innovative ways.

“I’ve been taking pictures my entire life,” Bruso said. “It’s just part of my way of being creative.”

Bruso, who received an M.F.A. in painting from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, has shown works at LaMaMa in New York City and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit.

“I’ve always wanted to be more of an artist than a photographer,” Bruso said, “so I never saw photography as separate from the arts.”

“A Lesser Doxology” is Bruso’s third exhibit at Curios Matter. “I like the aesthetics at the gallery,” Bruso said, “and working with the people. I like that the space is really intimate.”

For more information about the exhibit call the gallery at (201) 659-5771.

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