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FINDING MYSELF IN HOBOKEN

A BREEZY, OPINIONATED JOURNAL OF LIFE INCLUDING MOVIES, FOOD, BOOKS, POLITICS, PEOPLE AND PLACES--ESPECIALLY IN HOBOKEN AND NEW YORK CITY, ALONG WITH ASSORTED SPOTS ON THE GLOBE.

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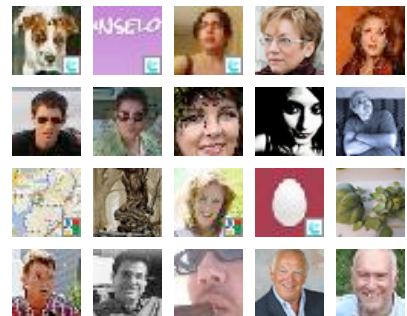
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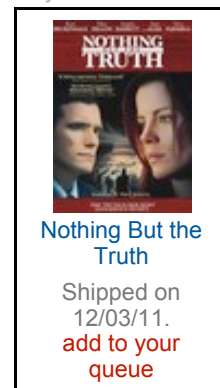


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TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

Curious in Jersey City

I received an intriguing invitation to an art exhibition entitled "Poison" to be held in a little gallery called Curious Matter in Jersey City. I say intriguing because the flyer described the theme of the exhibit thusly:

Poison has captured the imagination for millennia. It appears in folk tales, fairy tales, opera and murder mysteries. Poisoning has been the clean, classic way evil characters subdue and eliminate a rival without the use of brute force. But poison is not just a substance used to remove inconvenient competition. It is more than our romantic notion of hemlock and horror, and the artists of Curious Matter's POISON exhibition have sensitively distilled the tincture to its purest forms.

Well put, don't you think? I was reminded of the drugged possets in Macbeth, and the apple in Snow White. I knew nothing of the gallery Curious Matter, and less of the neighborhood, but with directions, I found my way to the *vernissage* on Sunday afternoon. (I'm allowed to call it that because of my six years in Geneva, where an art opening is known as a *vernissage*.)

Curious Matter is on the parlor floor of a brownstone on Fifth Street. It is a tiny space, made smaller by the crowd, but very pleasant, and its curators, also artists, are eager to make new guests feel at home. I had a nice chat with Raymond E. Mingst, gallery owner and artist, and I enjoyed the artworks on display. It is not a dark and poisonous show, but rather an inspiration based on the many ways we deal with the poisons that surround us. Andrew Graham's bold oil paintings of toxic maxims from a local church caught my eye. Roaming around the room I was drawn to the tiny goose-stepping geese on Kara Smith's *Green As Goslings*, little ones whose minds were clearly being poisoned by their adult leaders. Whimsy came forth in Mingst's own *You're Not Out of*

the Woods Yet, Dearie, a clear resin sculpture of a hand the size of a teaspoon sticking out of the wall, offering the possibility of any number of possible life-threatening substances.

The show is small, but full of food for thought. It will run until May 17 on Sundays from noon to 3 P.M. or by appointment.

I found the visit so pleasant I became curious myself about living in Jersey City. Not that my bags are packed, but with the better weather, I'm going to explore.

POSTED BY MARY LOIS AT 10:48 AM 

2 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

Mary Lois, Thanks for making your way by. It was a pleasure meeting you and we appreciate your thoughtful blog. (The Guys and Dolls review was terrific too.) Cheers! R.

APRIL 7, 2009 1:13 PM

Anonymous said...

BIG SHOW AT MAXWELL'S! TUES APRIL 28th
LOUDER THAN WORDS
at

MAXWELL'S

1039 Washington Street Hoboken, NJ.

When: Tuesday, April 28th

8:00pm Admission: \$7 1 888 782 4589

"...a journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step. But then again, so does a journey in a circle."

Theme: "My First Time"

First love. First job. First day of school. First things first.

First and foremost. "If at first you don't succeed, try try again."

"

First impressions last." Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

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[Finding Fair Hope](#)

ME AND MY BOOKS

[The Fair Hope of Heaven, Meet Me at The Butterfly Tree](#)

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Nice write up on hobokeni.com
 HOST BY JOEY NOVICK
 INCREDIBLE, INCREDIBLE, INCREDIBLE LINE UP:
 DINA PEARLMAN
 ADAM WADE
 MARTIN DOCKERY
 FAYE LANE
 TRACY ROWLAND
 ANDY CHRISTIE
 APRIL 10, 2009 9:27 PM

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ABOUT ME



MARY LOIS

Born and raised in Lower Alabama, I moved in December 2007 to Hoboken and have never looked back. I write of my hometown, Fairhope, and my new surroundings with a combination of wonder, conflict, and laughter, all the while contemplating how I got here.

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