

## Arts &amp; Entertainment

## Review

# Work In Progress: Jackie Reeves At The Guyer Art Barn

By RICHARD NEAL

A group of adolescent girls thrash together, arms grappling, legs flying in the air. Are they fighting? Are they playing? Behind them, a mother bends down to soothe a younger child, while the activities of other figures swirl around them. Ripped papers weave together with charcoal drawing and painted passages, revealing the active process behind this complex and intriguing composition.

Such is the thrum of everyday life.

The painting, entitled "Work in Progress," is part of a show now on display at the Guyer Art Barn in Hyannis by artist Jackie Reeves.

Is it a finished painting? "I'm not done with it," Ms. Reeves said. "I'm not sure if it will ever be done. Serving, cooking, cleaning—these activities are never-ending. Life is a work in progress."

Ms. Reeves work has much to say about the challenges and rewards of juggling the roles of daughter, sister, mother, and wife, while simultaneously trying to create a body of meaningful artwork.

A self-portrait on a nearby wall is painted on a set of window blinds, rooting the work to a domestic setting. A woman on her knees carries one child on her back and another in her pregnant belly. The large central image of the artist stands like a

pillar in the midst of the whorl. An oven mitt covers one hand, while the other holds a loaded paint brush. A drawing on transparent vellum scrolls down across the face, once again creating the image of a work still in gestation.

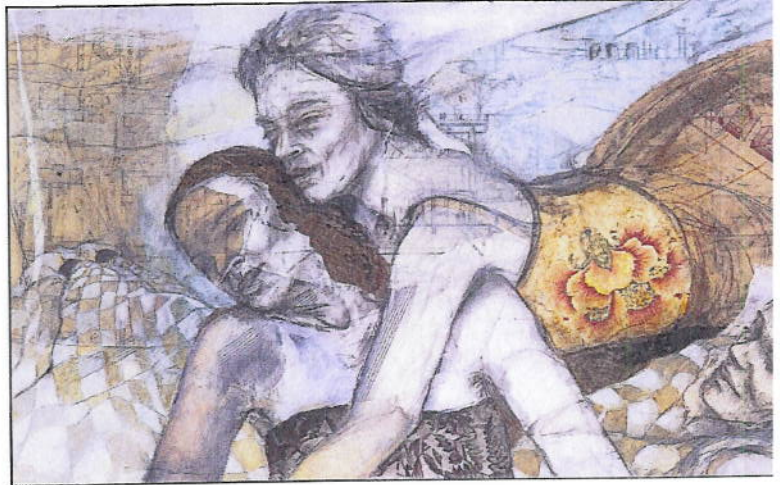
Smaller, collaged paintings have a more finished feeling and evince the gentle pleasures of life, recalling Matisse's comment that art should be like an armchair to provide a calming influence on the mind.

Figures loll on couches dreaming, reading, cuddling or running their fingers through a favorite pet's soft fur. Here the collaged elements create elaborate patterns evoking lush fabrics, walls and furniture.

Throughout her work, Ms. Reeves depicts many images of hands performing myriad functions. They are gentle yet strong as they cradle, stroke, clutch, carry, threaten, protect and soothe. These are the hands of a woman. The hands of an artist.

Jackie Reeves lives with her husband and three daughters in the town of Sandwich and works at Chalkboard Studio in Barnstable Village.

The Guyer Art Barn is at 250 South Street in Hyannis. Gallery hours are noon to 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition runs through August 1 and there will be an opening reception for the artist tonight, Friday, July 23, from 7 to 9 PM.



Jackie Reeves is exhibiting at the Guyer Art Barn through August 1. The reception tonight, July 23, from 7 to 9 PM. Ms. Reeves works out of her Chalkboard Studio in Barnstable Village.



Jackie Reeves