

# Longboat A+

**LONGBOAT**  
**The Observer**



## LBK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts Center honors art community.

**Page 7A+**

**You. Your neighbors. Your neighborhood.**

THE LONGBOAT OBSERVER  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2005

**art celebration** by Dora Walters | Senior Editor

Maxine Masterfield and Bill Buchman



## Center honors art community

Local artists, art teachers, all persons involved in the arts and the art community as a whole were honored Nov. 19 by the Longboat Key Center for the Arts at a reception at the Arts Center. The event was a kick-off for the upcoming art season and an opportunity for the artists and Art Association members to meet each other. Many attending were new to the Arts Center and viewed the present shows and learned about scheduled workshops and classes. Maureen Hauck was the chairman of the event.

THE OBSERVER

# Artefacts

THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2005 **9C**

## The music of abstract art

Bill Buchman is a jazz pianist and an abstract visual artist, combined skills which make him an ideal teacher for the mysteries of abstraction. Buchman plans to do just that in his "Inside Abstract Art" workshop at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the Education Center of Longboat Key.

"It's going to be surprising," he says. "Surprise is the essence of abstract art."

As he describes it, whatever you think abstract art is, it's probably not that.

Buchman says, "I wouldn't go so far as what Louis Armstrong said about swing — 'If you gotta ask, don't mess with it.' You should ask, but people tend to ask the wrong questions. They tend to have the wrong idea."

"It's like visual music," he says. "Music is the most abstract art there is.

"It's more representational than most people think," he says. "Life is filled with abstract imagery — clouds, the play of light and shadow on leaves." In his mind, a good representational painting always works also as an abstraction. And, to a certain extent, artists who give their abstractions a representational handle are cheating. (See? *There's a splash of brown there. That's a tree.*)

In his mind, appreciating abstract visual art is like learning to appreciate opera, jazz or folk. You have to learn the vocabulary of

the music. And it helps — no pun intended — not to learn it in the abstract. Watching somebody create the music right in front of you is the best way. Buchman plans to do just that in the class — by creating visual music.

But could he get a little more concrete? Well, no.

"If you're curious, check out the class," Buchman says.

Some surprises must remain.

Call 383-8811 for details. □

# Annual town exhibit to open at Arts Center

BY DORA WALTERS  
Senior Editor

The 12th annual Town of Longboat Key Exhibit at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10. The exhibit will be in the Joan M. Durante Pavilion.

Special awards include a \$1,000 Commissioners' Award and the \$200 Longboat Key Award, for the best scene of Longboat Key.

Following tradition, the Arts

Center board will present the commissioners with a work of art to be hung at Town Hall.

In a concurrent exhibit at the Glen Gallery at the Arts Center, works by local artist Bill Buchman will be on display. Buchman lived in Denmark for 16 years and returned to the United States two years ago. He has exhibited extensively in Denmark, Sweden and England and recently began an affiliation with the Anita Shapolsky Gallery in New York.

Buchman's work will remain on exhibit through Jan. 25; the Town of Longboat Key Exhibit continues through Feb. 3.

The next exhibit at the Glen Gallery will be watercolors by Anne Abgott, opening Jan. 26. The Longboat Key Club Exhibit opens Feb. 15.

The Arts Center is located at 6960 Longboat Drive South at the north end of the Key.

For information on classes and workshops offered, call 383-2345. □



Longboat Key artist Bill Buchman's work will be on display in the Glen Gallery at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts.

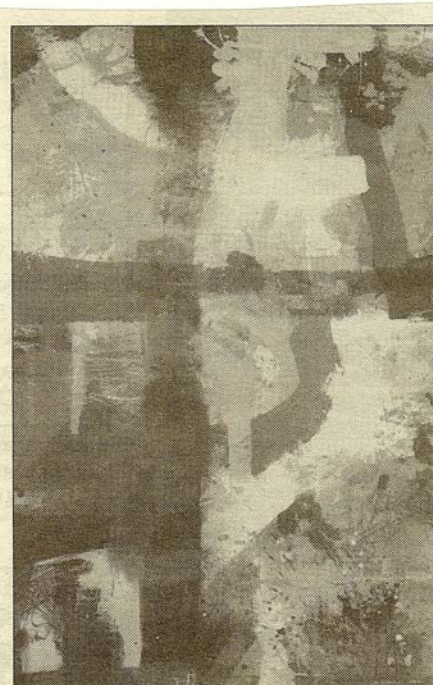
Dora Walters

4C THURSDAY JANUARY 9, 2003

*Longboat Key Observer*

## Double header

Two impressive exhibits are gearing up at The Longboat Key Center for the Arts. "Bill Buchman" features riffs on the interplay between color and form by the popular jazz musician/artist, and runs from Jan. 5 through 25, in the Glen Gallery. Twelfth annual "Town of Longboat Key Exhibit" is an eclectic, all-media show running through Feb. 5, in the Joan M. Durante Pavilion. A combined opening reception takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10. Call 383-2345.



Bill Buchman's "Aurora"

## **'Bill Buchman'**

Glen Gallery, Longboat Key Center for the Arts

It's easy to see that Buchman, besides being a painter, is also a musician — and a jazz musician at that. Where most visual artists are telling stories, he's making music. He even makes musician's puns.

Consider his "Key of Longboat" series, or the various permutations of the "Key of Blue II." These are pure abstractions, writhing organic forms of thick impasto. A key, of course, is either an island, a musical octave, or a range of harmonious color. That's the joke ...

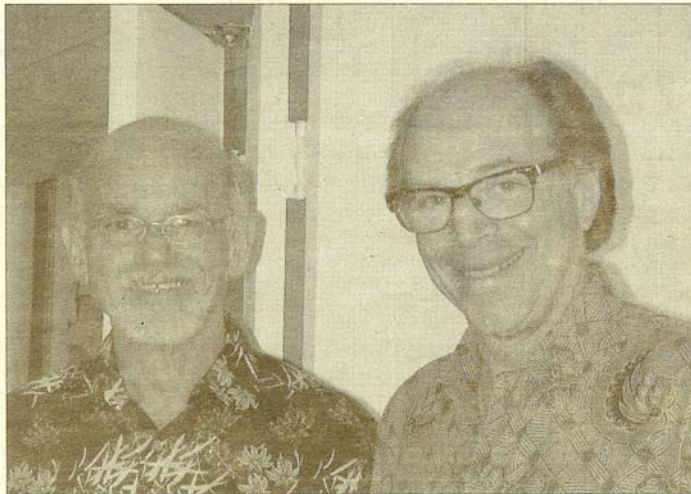
But the real joke he's playing is with your eye — like the playful color music of his "Sea of Color." It's a wide, horizontal triptych where hot spots of foreground color dance around the cool fields of color behind them. Look at it long enough, and, almost against its will, the painting will open up to a sense of oceanic depth. It's like some lively, loopy-jive Rorschach blot on which you can't help but project some picture. The eye will have its stories.

For such a cool abstractionist, Buchman has a fine command of the figurative. His "Female figure I" is masterful. With astonishing economy of line, deep blue outline and ochre shadow, he suggests mass and modeling, even personality. Its loose, gestural lines makes it clear he paints quickly ...

And thinks even quicker. □

Bill Buchman's "Sphere Music" is the first place winner — a sidereal meditation, juxtaposing harsh geometrical forms against the gestural chaos of a starfield. Buchman returns to the infinite spaces with his "Eternal Quest." Here, he places both a human figure and disconnected signifiers of human rationality against a swirl of stars and nebulae.

## AT THE OPENING



Photos by Dora Walters

The formal opening of the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society Invitational at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts was held Oct. 5. More than 100 paintings are on exhibit. Among the exhibitors attending the opening were Joseph Melancon, second-place winner, and Bill Buchman, first-place winner. Buchman is an instructor at the Arts Center.

# Artefacts

## Art, music and all that jazz

From Cat Stevens to John Lennon, it's surprising how many musicians have a visual arts background. **Bill Buchman**, the piano player with Al Hixon's All Stars, is one of them. For the last 20 years, he's been making a good living as a visual artist in Denmark. But, only last October, this internationally-known painter decided to return to Sarasota.

"I just felt it was time to come back," he says.

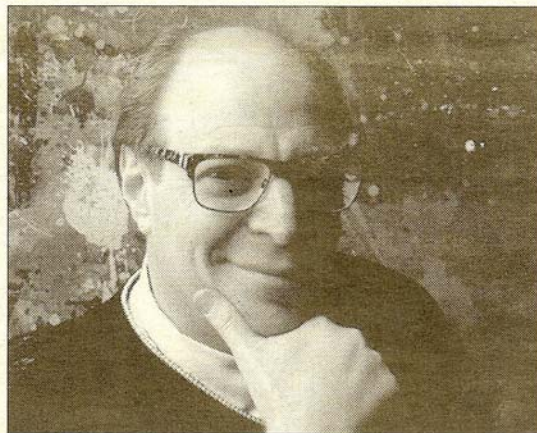
Part of the reason was pure homesickness. Part was the example of his mother's success. **Natalie Buchman** is a Longboat Key resident and a visual artist in her own right; her miniature books were a hit at the recent Sarasota Reading Festival. What tipped the scale was the offer to teach full time at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts.

Buchman now teaches both figure drawing and abstract painting at the Arts Center, where his paintings are also on display.

Buchman feels his paintings and music draw from the same creative source as his music.

"I think of making music with my paintings and making images with my music," he says.

To hear Buchman paint with music, check out Al Hixon's All Stars "Sunday in the Park" concert from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Joan M. Durante Park. Call 383-2466 or 383-5509 for details.



Artist and musician Bill Buchman is right at home.