

## LIVE ART FUSION ROCKS HUNTINGTON, NORTHPORT AND CENTERPORT

Crowds will experience the synergy of music and art as never before at several waterfront festivals that promise to rock the greater Huntington area, and the name of the game is "live art fusion."

According to the series' producer, Rich Rivkin, who plays conga drums as part of the band, Fusion Collective, he and his son, Eric, were brainstorming about coupling entertainment with live jazz to "make the whole more than the sum of its parts." The result? Live art fusion (LAF) whereby artists paint to live groove-based jazz fusion music. It all began at 841 East Lounge in Huntington Station, with 70 artists turning out for more than 30 events since LAF's inception last November.

"The music directly inspires the brushstrokes," Rivkin said of the vibe which vitalizes artists' work and takes it to new heights. "Painters dance along with the music while they paint. It amazes me what the artists can create in an hour's time. Most create two pieces during the course of the evening. It's an opportunity to paint alongside other artists with music in an energizing venue. It's a source of new inspiration."

Susan Silkowitz, a gifted photographer whose images accompany this story, happened on LAF at 841 East Lounge, and was immediately impressed.

"It's very retro. Everyone is doing their own thing, and it has that creative, laid-back atmosphere," said Silkowitz who was reminded of the Village in Manhattan.

Michael Krasowitz, a Huntington Station-based artist who paints in acrylics at LAF events, uses the music to direct his creative process.

"I try to create an abstract visual language which is equivalent to the sounds they create. The painting can take many directions based on where the music goes, and I try to interpret the sounds through color and form," Krasowitz explained.

Emily Eisen, a Northport artist who recently had a one-woman show at Campari Ristorante in East Northport, has painted images of artists as well as musicians.

LAF is ongoing at 841 East Lounge each Wednesday night from 7:30 to 11:30 pm. In addition, Rivkin is taking the area by storm with large-scale waterfront festivals with music by alternating bands.

The first festival took place at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport on June 24, and was attended by over a thousand people.

"Fifty artists took part and there were six bands," Mr. Rivkin said of 7-hour extravaganza.

LAF will be touching down at the Vanderbilt again on August 12 from 2 to 6 pm with a Live Art Drum and Dance Fest, and then again on September 9 from noon to 7 pm with a "Grateful Fest." The latter is a tribute to the Grateful Dead and four bands will be playing, Rivkin indicated. Admission is \$7 for these events.

The Northport Arts Coalition will be sponsoring a free Live Art Fusion Festival in Northport Village Park on Sunday, August 26 from 1 to 6 pm. A free Live Art Fusion Festival will also take place at Huntington's Heckscher Park on September 23 from noon to 4 pm.

Rivkin expects LAF to be raised to the nth degree as more than 100 artists draw inspiration from each other, the music, the audience and picturesque waterviews offered up by each of these very different venues.

"The combination of live painting and live music has emerged as new genre of entertainment," Rivkin said of his mission to foster this "new cultural tradition which has been taking root within our community since 2011."

All are welcome to attend, and guests should bring a blanket or a chair. Rivkin invites artist participation and paintings will be available for sale. To learn more visit [liveartfusion.com](http://liveartfusion.com), or contact Rivkin at (631) 261-2941 or [rich@jazzfusion.tv](mailto:rich@jazzfusion.tv).







*Elise Pearlman, an arts and leisure journalist, has been reviewing photography and art exhibits, theater and restaurants for nine years. Her work has appeared in Newsday, Dan's Papers and Long Island Pulse Magazine as well as local newspapers. She creates the popular 'There's No Place Like Northport' calendar with her husband. She can be reached at LotusElise1@aol.com.*

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