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ART

A quiet place to practice

“Diluvial” to surround cool yoga classes

By Kelly Sennott
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The soothing blues, greens and whites in Cristi Rinklin's illuminated fantasy landscape “Diluvial” invite visitors in, with images of cool mountains, swirls of wind and puffs of clouds. It's a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere — perfect, really, for a yoga class.

The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) is offering the chance to practice yoga in this work of art, Thursdays at 10 a.m., from July 12 through Aug. 16 in the beautiful Putnam Gallery, where Rinklin's work currently resides.

It's one of the most beautiful places that yoga instructor Kate Dube has ever practiced.

“I love the way that the light shines through the glass, and I love the cooling colors,” said Dube, the instructor from YogaBalance who will be leading this weekly class.

Dube hopes this room will help students in their practice. Much of the time, she'll instruct students to close their eyes or concentrate on looking in one spot, to quiet the mind. In this space, she won't have to.

“For everyone living in the Western hemisphere, so much of life is focused on the external. Every moment of every day, you get senses that stimulate the brain. You're constantly in overdrive, and we're often very distracted by what we see around us. When we get to practice in a place like this, we try to use the spaciousness and stillness to finding that within us,” she said.

This is not the first time that the Currier has held yoga classes, but it is the first time that yoga has been offered *inside* an exhibit. The space can accommodate a much larger group, the way the gallery is configured. And the art is part of the space — the art is formed from the wall itself, from the wallpaper. There's no need to worry about paintings falling down, or statues being knocked over.

“This was something that came about after the exhibition was installed because of the way the gallery itself provided such a terrific environment to do something contemplative in. ‘Diluvial’ transforms the space, with the stained glass effect, giving it an immersive,



Cristi Rinklin's “Diluvial” at the Currier. Courtesy photo.

peaceful space, a wonderful place to stretch the mind, body,” said Leah Fox, director of public programs at the Currier.

It also presents another way for people to enjoy the space. “Whenever we're thinking about our special exhibitions, we like to think about a wide range of different types of programs we can offer visitors,” Fox said.

If yoga isn't your thing, you can visit for a concert, instead. On Thursday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m., artist Cristi Rinklin and Currier Museum of Art curator Nina Bozicnik will speak about “Diluvial,” and their talk will be followed by a concert by Shirish Korde. Featured in the concert are soprano Deepthi Navaratna and cellist Jan Muller-Szerwas.

Korde created this art for the ears after he saw Rinklin's art for the eyes. With this Indian-rhythmed piece, ranging from contemplative to energetic, audiences are in for a treat.

“He [Korde] and Rinklin have worked together before, and he really wanted to think about the piece in terms of the dynamic forces of nature,” Fox said.

“Diluvial” is on view until Thursday, Sept. 9. Yoga attendees are encouraged to bring a yoga mat and comfortable shoes. (If you don't have a yoga mat, contact Dube at YogaBalance, 625-4000, beforehand.)

Yoga and “Diluvial”

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester

When: Yoga is Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., July 12-Aug. 16; the concert/artist reception is Thursday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m.