

4 Coming soon to a bus stop near you—more signs, benches, three walls and a roof.

10 Before there were bankers there were bison. A look back at the earliest residents of College Hill.

5 At Clifton Square, music & art festival draws an eclectic crowd. Shopowners rejoice.



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COLLEGE HILL ★ CROWN HEIGHTS ★ UPTOWN ★ SLEEPY HOLLOW

APRIL 2009

THIS MODERN HOUSE

A MODERN PAINTER'S VIEW OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD PAGE 8



Crestway, by Rebecca Hoyer. Hoyer, a painter and College Hill resident, rarely looks outside of the neighborhood for inspiration. Her paintings of the local landscape often reveal something new about the place we live. See story on page 8.

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ARTS

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Weekend After Next, by Rebecca Hoyer



Tangled, by Rebecca Hoyer



Implications, by Rebecca Hoyer

THIS MODERN HOUSE

A MODERN PAINTER'S VIEW OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

BY BARRY OWENS

“This one is from just down the street, actually,” painter Rebecca Hoyer was saying the other day as she found the page she was looking for in her sketchbook. It was a nice drawing, but hardly recognizable as a College Hill house.

“What I saw was this whorly-ness here, and this weird tree here,” Hoyer said. “I sort of enjoyed that. The germ of the painting is in there. For me it is about trying to figure out how to simplify it down enough so that you can see the same thing that I see. I think of it as making a poem of a photograph, you’re trying to find the essence of it.”

The essence of the College Hill landscape, to Hoyer’s eye, is the inter-



Rebecca Hoyer in her home studio.

section of the “organic and the man-made.” It is, she says, how the trees interact with the houses and vice versa. But in her paintings, leaves become shapes (the better to move the eye) houses go slanty, or the windows squint.

“I don’t always do the most beauti-

ful house on the block, because then it would be a more realistic portrait, and I’m not interested in that,” she said.

Hoyer’s one-person show opens this month at Steckline Gallery at Newman University on April 24. There, you can have a look for yourself at a modernist’s view of the old neighborhood.

Hoyer, who describes her style as an “edgy modernist dystopia” began painting College Hill (and a few other neighborhood houses) shortly after moving to the neighborhood from New York about 15 years ago.

“It’s the old paint what you know kind of thing,” Hoyer said. “If I’m more interested in the shapes and how crazy I can make them, it is easier to do something that is very simple. A house is

something that is very obvious to people. Then you can manipulate it and make it more crazy.”

She says she has little interest in moving on to other subjects when there is so much left to explore around here.

“Every once in awhile I think I need to go paint some people, or maybe take a trip. But then you take a walk and find something interesting,” she says.

Lately she’s been eyeing the space between houses.

“You have that weird view right down the middle,” she says. “That is interesting.”

Rebecca Hoyer’s one person show opens April 24 at Newman University in the Steckline Gallery. The show runs through May 15.