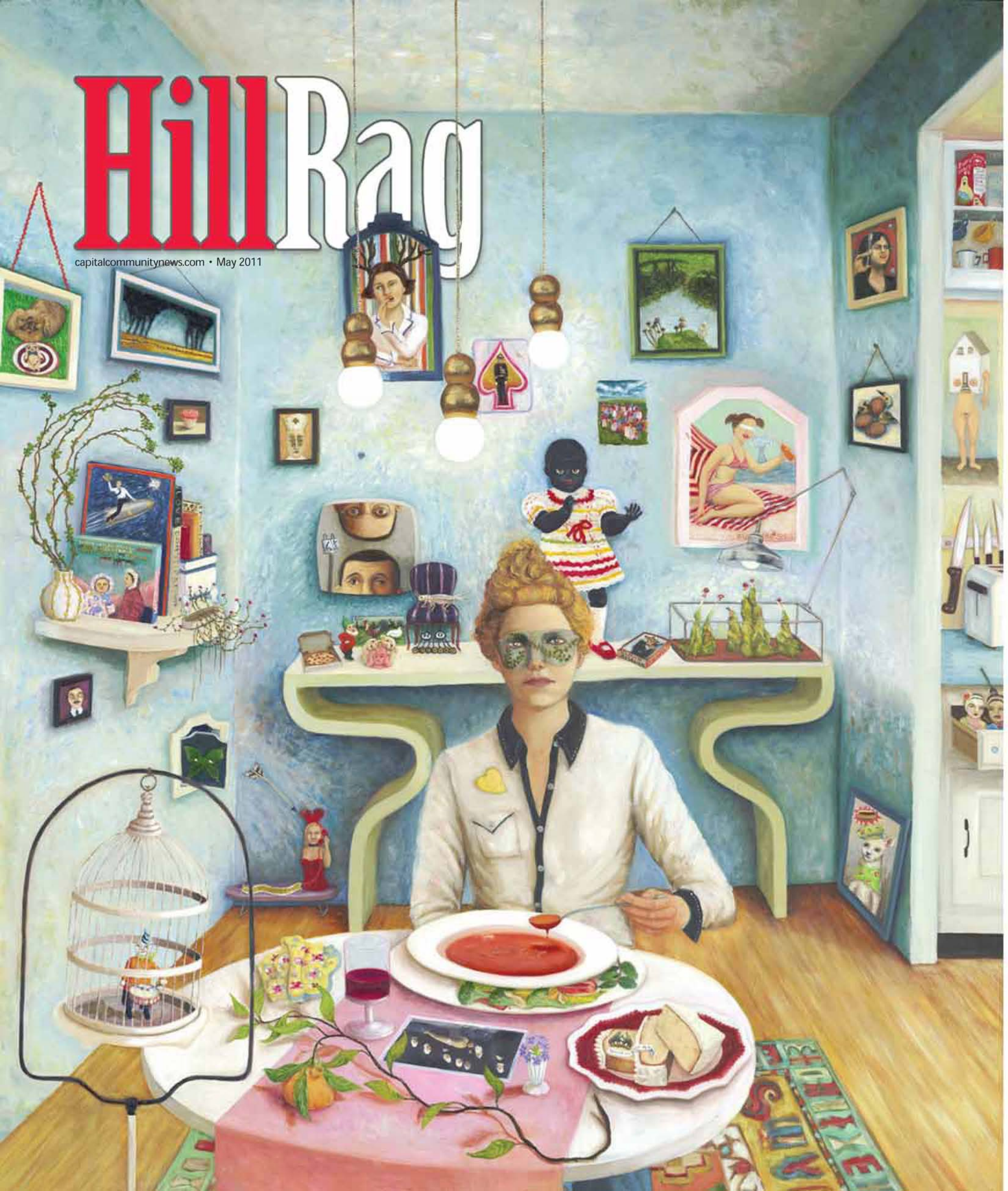


# Hill Rag

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# Artist Portrait: Harvey J. Kupferberg

A Capitol Hill artist and writer, Jim can be reached at [ArtandtheCity05@aol.com](mailto:ArtandtheCity05@aol.com)

These could be the pictures that drift in your memory like ghost images after you close your eyes. Each is an altered reality with all but the essential truths of the scene filtered away, distilled into lines and curves, bright spots and darks. Look at them for a few seconds and the clean, dominant patterns may induce the illusion of movement. In creating a 2-dimensional image from a 3-dimensional reality, photographer Harvey J. Kupferberg uses receding lines of vision and curved surfaces to induce a feeling of depth – the almost endless space within the confined borders of the picture.

Harvey spent 32 years at NIH in the field of medical research and he brings that



discipline to black and white photography. By minimizing variables in the technical process, it gives him more artistic flexibility, the essential ingredient in creativity...that elusive mix of observation, experience and personality.

He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry, a doctorate in pharmacy and a doctorate in pharmacology. He is now retired, but it's that extensive background in chemistry that guides him in his experiments with exposure and development techniques.

In his upcoming show at the Touchstone Gallery (see, *At the Galleries*) he has concentrated on infrared photography. Capturing solid objects with light that is invisible to the human eye creates its own technical demands and results in images that often startle in their "unnatural" arrangements of lights and darks. They offer a different appreciation of the landscape and the eye of each viewer will provide individual interpretations.

Harvey has won numerous awards and has had many solo and group exhibits in the DC region. Those awards do not come solely from technique, but from that inexplicable something that clicks emotionally in both the photographer and the viewer. [www.kupferbergphotography.com](http://www.kupferbergphotography.com).

## Jim Magner's Thoughts on Art

After many years in the making, my book on Vietnam is in the production process. It's called, "A Haunting Beauty; Vietnam through the eyes of an artist." I thought I knew what it was all about until I tried to explain it to the promotional text writers. I discovered that I had to explain it to myself first.

It doesn't fit into the usual war-book categories: heroic, patriotic, anti-war, history or even memoir. So what is it? I take some solace in knowing that the best books of any

genre defy categorization.

Some writers make combat a study of human nature, extending their expressive language to visual descriptions. But for me, art was an integral part of the experience, not stage setting. I needed to look beyond and inward if I was to confront the whole aesthetic of humanity, and how beauty and art define how we interact, love and even fight.

So the book, it turns out, is not just about the beauty of nature but the nature of beauty. That, I realized, could only be translated through the characters – the amazing jumble of people I knew there – and how they became part of the landscape...the ecology of a war in an exotic time and place.

That's pretty much what I have been trying to write about in these columns for the past 10 years: Without people, there is no beauty; human nature creates it. Otherwise, nature just IS – it exists for its own evolutionary purposes. Only man can see nature as wondrous. Only stumbling, emotional, sentimental humans can create art, music, poetry, literature, and theater. And it's only our mean, self-centered species that can deliberately destroy beauty.

Nature has the power to create and destroy natural forms and that is the beauty of nature. Man has the power to create and destroy art, that is the nature of beauty.

**Harvey Kupferberg,  
Marcia Coppel  
Touchstone Gallery  
901 New York Ave. NW  
May 4 – May 29**

With "Infrared, The Invisible Light," Harvey Kupferberg (see, *Artist Profile*) presents a startling view of the subject through the filtered effects of infrared light. Unexpected arrangements of lights and darks allow individual interpretations of landscapes, architecture, and other subjects.

In "Life Is Too Serious," the playful paintings and drawings of Marcia Coppel take you into a world of uninhibited color, reflecting the folk styles of Mexico.

The opening reception for both shows is May 6, 6 – 8:30. [www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com). ★



Infrared photographs of Brookside Gardens, Maryland, Ice Flow, Frozen Pool west side of Capitol, Virgin River, Zion N.P. Utah.