

# Arts & Entertainment

## Female figure given license to roam Mailer's work on view at the Cornwall library

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Danielle Mailer's women have never sat still.

They flit, fly, float and glide in explosive, multi-hued landscapes laced with tiny geometric ribbons and pointillist dots.

The female figure has been one of liberation and license in Mailer's canvases, so it should surprise no one that her figures have finally flown right off the campus.

In a small new collection of work, on view at the Cornwall Public Library through May 31, Mailer has gone right out of the canvas entirely. The Cornwall artist has created Masonite silhouettes, some of them life-size, and used the body itself as her canvas. The effect is as electric as it is transporting. Mailer's silhouette women, so guileless in their gymnastic poses, have become canvases on which their life and power has quite literally been etched.

The Cornwall Library exhibit contains three of these silhou-



COURTESY OF DANIELLE MAILER

**Danielle Mailer, Small paper collage, 'Cornwall Still-Life,' 2007.**

ettes, one smaller, with a tiger's head, as well as some of Mailer's more traditional collages and giclee prints.

These are confections of bewitching, neon pinks and blues, limey greens and lemony yellows. They are knitted together with Mailer's trademark meandering, coiling dots and geomet-

ric doodles.

Mailer, head of the art department at Indian Mountain School in Lakeville, will be showing at the Mattatuck Museum Arts and History Center next year, and it's about time. Her Matisse-like creations mix kinetic color with snaking, looping forms and ornament to create a feeling of fluidity and power. In one giclee print, "The Goddess of Small Things," a woman sits reading on a fiery orange arm chair, while around her the atmosphere seethes with glyphs and plaits of patterns and iconography.

Mailer has a vision for womanhood that is at once lithe and pliant, pensive and powerful. These are unencumbered women, whose traditional symbols have been upended in a veritable tossed salad of energy. These women are not so much defined by their circumstances as integral to them, moving through the hearth with a mystic, maternal energy. They are the women most of us long to be.