Studio Montclair Presents “Altered Images: Creativity Beyond the Lens,” an exhibit at SMI Virginia S. Block Gallery, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ

May 20 – August 14, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(April 24, 2015) MONTCLAIR, NJ - Studio Montclair Inc. (SMI) is pleased to announce “Altered Images: Creativity Beyond the Lens” exhibit, on view from May 22 to August 14, 2015, at SMI Virginia S. Block Gallery. An opening reception will be held at the gallery in the Academy Square building (33 Plymouth St., Montclair, NJ) on Friday, May 22, from 7pm to 9pm. The gallery is open to the public from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday.

Curated by Bill Westheimer and Virginia Block, “Altered Images: Creativity Beyond the Lens” gives the viewer an opportunity to see altered images side-by-side with the original images before changes were made.

“These 16 talented artists offer insight about the creativity of the photographer’s eye as well as their vision beyond the initial inspirational subject that was photographed,” says Westheimer.

**Featured artists:**

*Merry Brennan, Karen Cohen, Janice Gewirtz, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Dwight Harris, Susan Herman, Frederick Hodder, Sharon Libes, Haeree Park, Arthur Paxton, Marcia Pelletiere, Zahava Rozman, William Sargent, Irv Suss, Heidi Sussman, and Florence Weisz.*

**Listing information about the exhibit**:

**Curators**: Virginia S. Block and Bill Westheimer

**Exhibition Dates**: May 20 – August 14, 2015

**Gallery:** SMI Virginia S. Block Gallery, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ 07043

**Gallery Hours**: Monday – Friday 7am to 7pm

**Reception**: Friday, May 22, 7 to 9pm

**Studio Montclair Contact Info:** studiomontclair@aol.com, [www.studiomontclair.org](http://www.studiomontclair.org), 973-744-1818

**Images for press:**

Janice Gewirtz, Rome Windows, 24x32”, Photo paper

Frederick Hodder, World Financial Center, 26x36”, Photograph on dibond under acrylic

Florence Weisz, Stripes 12, 24x24”, Paper on panel

Sharon Libes, Marina City II (Knot), 24x24”, Archival pigment print

**About Studio Montclair**

Studio Montclair Inc. is a nonprofit organization of exhibiting professional artists and others interested in the visual arts. Its mission is to promote culture and education in the visual arts and encourage emerging artists. Founded in 1997, the organization includes over 300 members, including artists from around the United States. [www.studiomontclair.org](http://www.studiomontclair.org)

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

**About the curators:**

**Virginia S. Block** is a fine artist with work in numerous private and corporate collections. She has had a long and varied art career, including teaching, package and logo design, and as a director of incentive marketing. Since 1980, galleries in Washington, DC, PA, NJ, and NY have represented her. Block is currently represented by Fredrick Clement in NYC.

**Bill Westheimer** is a well-known photographer who has been fascinated with alternative photographic processes since making his first photograph at age 14. After college, Westheimer studied with Jerry Burchfield, who introduced him to color photograms and Cibachrome (ilfochrome) printing, which he went on to teach at Colorado Mountain College in Aspen. Westheimer has also studied the 19th century technique of collodion glass plate photography from France Scully and Mark Osterman, leading experts in that field.

Westheimer’s recent efforts include 3D printed sculptures, photograms made on collodion glass plates, ilfochrome and gelatin silver mediums. His works are exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide.