

# Englewood art teacher draws inspiration from views of GWB

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After using the famous landmark to teach her art students for more than a decade, Englewood resident Sheryl Intrator-Urman decided it was time to paint the George Washington Bridge herself, resulting in an eight-piece exhibition on display at the GWB bus terminal in Manhattan.



**The George Washington Bridge has been a focus of art teacher Sheryl Intrator-Urman's instruction for years.**

A seven-year resident of Englewood, Intrator-Urman is the founder of Art for Learning, which runs summer camps for children in elementary through high school. She said she would often take her art students to Edgewater to view the bridge as part of her lessons, having them paint the bridge in Fauvist style, which she used in her exhibition, on display in the terminal until March 15.

Many artists, she said, focus on one subject they like to paint, such as Claude Monet, who favored lily pads. "I started to realize I liked the New York skyline, and how I could do the bridge from different angles, so I started focusing on that," she said.

## Wood paintings

The pieces, painted on wood, each depict the bridge from the New Jersey side, in different weather and at different times of the day, she said.

"I look at the wood, and I'm able to use the wood grain to bring out the highlights of a sunset or a sunrise," she said, adding she applied different products to the painting to capture how light hits the water. "The wood is helping me create the painting I want it to be," she said.

She said she first began working on the series this past May.

During her career teaching art, Intrator-Urman said, she's always told her students "don't give up on your dreams," and said she finally decided to take her own advice and commit time to her own art career.

After shopping her pieces around, she was taken in by the Borghi Fine Art Gallery, which has helped put her art on display. She has had her work, including a similar wood-painted series on Adam and Eve, on display in New York, New Jersey and Israel. She said she takes inspiration from other artists, particularly the works on display at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, with its wide variety of artwork and styles.

"When I see the kinds of art there, it inspires me to create artwork," she said. "It's a dream of mine that I've always wanted to do," she said of the exhibition, adding that when it's run is finished, she'd like to have it displayed in other galleries in the area.

Additionally, she said the Port Authority is interested in having her paint other bridges.