

# The ARTS Part

what's news in the arts



IMAGE COURTESY OF HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE MAIN GALLERY

## A Hand at Art

In 2003, artist Melissa Scheid-Frantz got to visit the land of her mother's birth—Vietnam—for the first time. She visited her family in the southern part of the country, then headed to northern Vietnam. There she saw thousand-year-old rice terraces carved into the hills near Sa Pa. Those terraces and "the vitality and ingenuity of the minority Hmong peoples of the region" inspired Scheid-Frantz to undertake a whole new series of paintings.

Scheid-Frantz's work (one of her paintings is pictured) has a luminescent appeal, depicting architecture and landscapes in a style that, while clearly her own, combines the quiet mystery of di Chirico's paintings of buildings and street scenes with the playful perspective and bright palette of Marc Chagall.

Her work is all the more remarkable when you learn that she paints almost entirely with her fingers. You can see Scheid-Frantz's work at Hampshire College, where she is Director of the Multicultural Center, through Jan. 20. You can also catch an exhibit at Brattleboro's Windham Art Gallery.

Through Jan. 20, Hampshire College Main Gallery, Hampshire College, Route 116, South Amherst, 582-5544.

—James Hefflin  
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**GENGHIS BLUES** THE STORY OF A BLIND BLUES MUSICIAN'S JOURNEY TO THE LOST LAND OF TUVA

WINNER  
Best Music Award  
Sundance

WINNER  
Golden Gate Award  
Audience Award  
San Francisco Film

**JAN. 13-14**

IMAGES COURTESY OF POTHOLE PICTURES

## Big Voices

**JAN. 20**

Somewhere between the resonance of the didgeridoo and the low growl of a really good belch, you'll find the sonorous wonder of Tuvan throat-singing. This highly unusual method of producing sound actually enables one singer to produce multiple tones.

The style is traditional in the land of Tannu Tuva, which lies between Siberia and Mongolia. Tuva was occupied in 1944 by the Soviet Union, and its cultural traditions were largely unknown to the rest of the world until the '90s.

This month offers a chance to catch quite a lot of Tuvan music—Shelburne's Pothole Pictures is showing *Genghis Blues* Jan. 13-14. *Genghis Blues* follows the journey of Paul Pena (pictured above with Tuvan singer Kongar-ol Ondar), a blind bluesman who taught himself throat-singing, then travelled to Tuva to compete, where he proved a major hit. The Tuvan band **Huun-Huur Tu** will offer live throat-singing the next weekend in Shelburne as part of the Hilltown Folk series.



*Genghis Blues*: Jan. 13-14, \$6, 7:30 p.m. (preceded at 7 p.m. by music from Suzanne Barkan) Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, 625-2896.

*Huun-Huur Tu*: Jan. 20, \$20/advance, \$25/door, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, 625-6878.

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## TO SUBMIT LISTINGS

Include a brief description of the event or artist, date, price, time, venue address and phone number, preferably in the format of our listings. Incomplete submissions will not be listed. Deadline is Thursday, 5:00 p.m. two weeks prior to the issue date in which the listing would appear. Space does not permit listing advance notices. To be considered for more extensive write-up, please include artwork (300 dpi high quality digital images, photos or slides). We prefer e-mail and fax submissions. We do not accept text attachments. The address for regular mail is: Listings Editor, Valley Advocate, 110 Pleasant St., Suite 3350, Easthampton, MA 01027. E-mail: listings@valleyadvocate.com • Fax: 413-629-2944