

'Window Seat Photography' — a view from the sky

By **MARY ANNE CHRISTIANO**
of *The Montclair Times*

Clouds, normally taken for granted, are life-sized, soft and fluffy as Santa's beard when viewed from an airplane window seat, as photographer Andy Foster illustrates in his solo exhibition, "Window Seat Photography," on view from Dec. 3 through Jan. 28, 2006, at Gallery 51, at 51 Church St.

A Montclair resident for the past nine years, and owner of Gallery 51, Foster's photography has been featured in *The New York Times* and on network television (NBC, MTV, and VH1).

His "Tribute in a Light," a panorama photograph of the lights honoring the World Trade Center victims, was first shown at the Montclair Art Museum in 2002 and is a part of the Bruce Teleky catalog. Five thousand copies were sold. Foster considers his large panorama shots to be his trademark.

Foster's commercial clients include General Growth Properties, the MTA, Vuarnet, Oakley and Tourneau.

"There's a camera involved in everything," Foster said. "I look at everything the same way, I just want to get the creative pictures."

Commercially, Foster specializes in product photography and advertisements, with his biggest clients being fashion eyeglass-makers. No stranger to the fashion world, Fos-

ter has worked for Tommy Hilfiger and also photographed top models such as Christy Turlington, Claudia Schiffer, and Elle Macpherson for Fashion Café.

"It was a concept restaurant, like Planet Hollywood," Foster said. "Except it was Planet Model, in the mid-'90s when all the concept restaurants were turning up. I got a contract to shoot them."

After graduating from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, Foster worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for two years.

He always wanted to open an art gallery, especially in Montclair. Foster said, "Montclair is definitely the New Jersey center of the arts if there is one. It seems that way. I think an art gallery can only exist in certain places and this happens to be one of them. I always had a curatorial fantasy going on. To me, it seemed like a good gamble."

Gallery 51 opened almost a year ago and is still going strong, featuring artists such as Bud McNichol, Peter Sand, Jimmy Diresta, Stacey Van Dorpe, Jonathan Peyser, Regina Bogatt and Chanel (an African-American artist who specializes in woven canvases).

For more information about Gallery 51, call (973) 744-4484 or e-mail info@gallery51.org. Andy Foster's earlier work can be seen on his Web site: www.fosterART.com.



Courtesy of the artist

"JET ENGINE," is one of the photo images in "Window Seat Photography," a solo exhibition by Andy Foster, featuring photographs taken from the windows of commercial airliners, on view Dec. 3 through Jan. 28, 2006, at Gallery 51, located at 51 Church St. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 11 p.m.; followed by a Holiday Celebration on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 11 p.m.; and a Closing Party on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call (973) 744-4484, or e-mail info@gallery51.org.