

The New York Times

New Jersey

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JERSEY FOOTLIGHTS

Repeat After Me: 'I Am an Artist'

The film producer Phil Lane said that it is easy to know when you've become a doctor or a lawyer. "But how do you know when you've become an artist?" he asked.

"There's a fear of taking on this identity,"

Mr. Lane and the director John Givens, graduates of Montclair High School in 1991 and 1990, decided to make a film about people who identify themselves as artists and how they relate to this designation.

Mr. Lane and Mr. Givens, who live in San Francisco, wanted to find artists with a connection to their hometown. Through friends and family in New Jersey, they met four artists who grew up in Montclair: Jordan Carp,

a musician who lives in Boston; Bill Matick, a photographer who lives in Berkeley, Calif.; Bill Tierney, an artist from Santa Barbara, Calif.; and a Brooklyn artist, Shoshanna Weinberger. A fifth artist, Janet Taylor Pickett, lives in Montclair.

"Working Title," a 55-minute documentary, had its premiere at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on April 9. On April 20, the film received its East Coast premiere at the Montclair Art Museum.

An exhibition of work by the four visual artists in the film is on view through May 27 at Gallery 51 on Church Street in Montclair.

"Montclair is the fabric that brought the whole thing together," said the Gallery 51 director, Andrew Foster, who was approached by Mr. Lane and Mr. Givens four months ago to put on the exhibition. "It was the six degrees of Montclair separation."

Gallery information: (973) 744-4484 or www.gallery51.org. Film information: www.workingtitle.tv.

MICHELLE FALKENSTEIN