

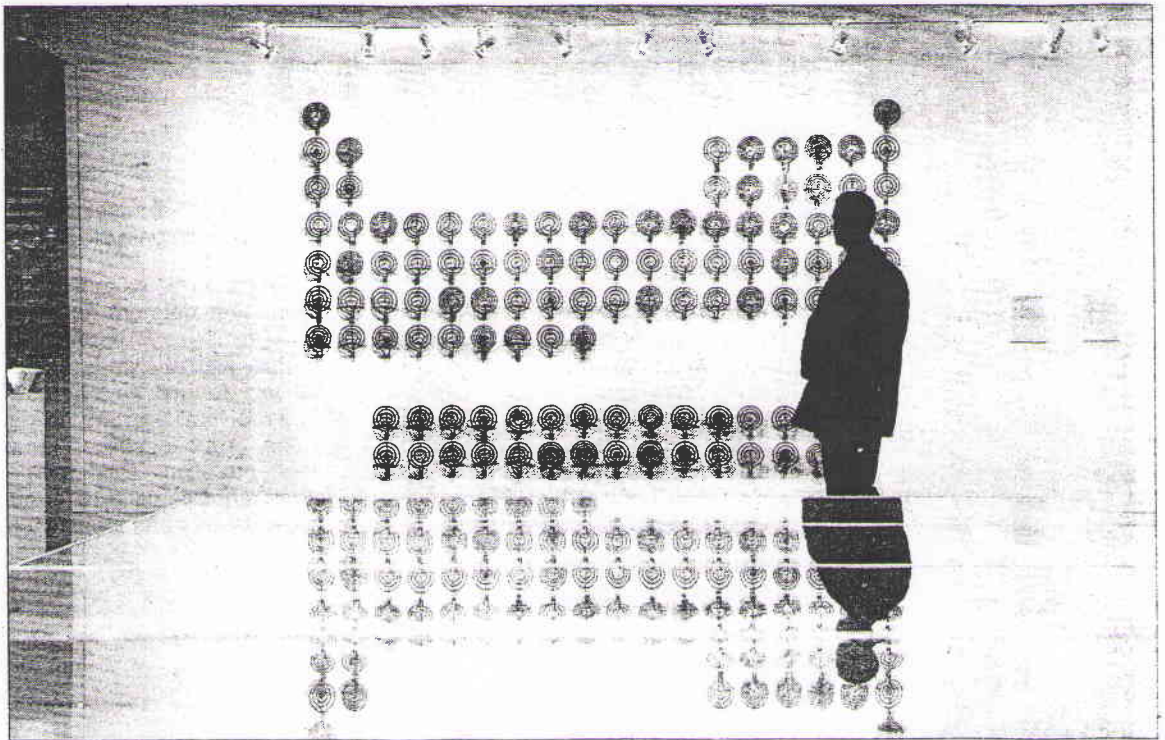
18 elements.

Celebrate y's gifts

sets all 118 elements before us in periodic-table formation, as if we were standing before a holiday table laden with lots of tasty items.

Straightaway comes David Clark of Halifax with a large-wall piece, comforting in its kitchen-cozy familiarity: It's made entirely of 118 old electric-stove coils lined up as a grid. Called *Braille*, it encourages us to see the world with "chemical vision," something requiring no wordy wall signs or encumbrances.

Brigitte Hitschler of Germany achieved a difficult outdoor installation at an abandoned mine, using chemical implants that in their reactions illuminated hundreds of red LED lights, visible from the air as mysterious red dots; her piece symbolizes the past and further energy potential of land. A different sort of labor-intensive approach is displayed in the fruits of Jennifer Schmitt's Periodic Table Printmaking Project, for which she rounded up



In "**Elemental Matters**" at the Chemical Heritage Foundation is Canadian artist David Clark's "Braille," made of 118 old electric-stove coils. The show is part of the U.S. launch of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry.

118 prints by 97 artists that comment on the elements and everyday life.

The show's artists explore the elements as symbol, raw material, or energy. One among them who manages to transform chemistry's ordinary associations into something genuinely surprising and evocative is Dove

Bradshaw. In beautiful photos of nude figures inscribed with lists of the elemental components of the human body; in one of her "Waterstone" series (water dripping deeply into limestone); or, in *Self Interest*, 57 tiny glass flasks sized proportionately to represent the elements that make up a 100-pound body, Bradshaw shows

a deep understanding of what builds and unbuilds the universe.

This is a brilliant and timely show.

Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut St. To Dec. 16, 10-4 Mon-Fri; also 5-8 on first Fridays. Free. 215-925-2222.

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Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 219 S. Sixth St. To March 18, 9-5 Mon-Fri; 10-2 first Saturdays. Free. 215-925-2688.

MUSE Gallery, 52 N. Second St. 12-5 Wed-Sun. Short puppet films 7-8:30 p.m. Wed. To Feb. 28. 215-627-5310.

"**Eastern State Penitentiary, Cellblock 12**" is in a show of work by area artist Colette Fu — "Haunted Philadelphia."

and timing
artists.

Wallingford's 'In Person'

For a few weeks every other year, the Wallingford Community Arts Center mounts a juried show of the human figure. For the current "In Person" exhibition, judge David McShane chose 58 works from 1,004 entries, producing a significant display of artistic life in our region.

The best-in-show award deservedly goes to *Apparition*, a charcoal drawing by Peter Smyth of Upper Darby in which one senses the extremity of Smyth's awareness of danger and vulnerability. In visual terms alone, this mysterious, darkling piece assaults the viewer with unusual power — doubtless because its beauty is so inherently part of the impact of

psychological violence on the naked man cowering beneath a table for safety as the dog sitting atop it calmly gazes at us.

The show contains a number of technologically adept portrait paintings seemingly influenced, directly or indirectly, by local painter Nelson Shanks. Several capable studio nude subjects won special recognition from McShane. Also noteworthy are a few people paintings with a sophisticated degree of finish in pastel, at least one promising attempt at allegory, and a couple of informal portraits.

Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd, Wallingford. To March 4, 9-9 Mon-Thu, 9-3 Fri, 9-noon Sat. Free, 610-566-1713.