



‘We should not do anything except imagine. When I say that, most people ask, “Can’t we do something more than imagine?”

However, imagine is a very strong thing to do. We can visualize all people living in peace.’

**Yoko Ono**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCOTTSDALE SEVILLE

# The legacy of Lennon

Scottsdale Seville exhibit reveals artistic talents of Beatles member

BY AMY ABRAMS | FOR SUNDAY ARTS

**J**ohn Lennon was an artist of many talents. Twenty-one years after his untimely death, his legend endures through his music and art. Many fans are surprised to learn that the famed Beatle began drawing long before he owned a guitar and attended the prestigious Liverpool Art Institute for three years (1957-1960).

A major exhibition of Lennon’s artwork will be showcased at the Scottsdale Seville Friday through March 3, featuring limited-edition prints of his drawings as well as limited-edition prints of original handwritten lyrics to his music.

Viewing Lennon’s drawings is like paging through his personal diary, as they reveal the intimate details of his

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life with Yoko Ono and their son, Sean. Indeed, a portfolio of the drawings (titled “Bag One”) was presented to Ono by Lennon in 1969 as a wedding gift.

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### SEE IT

**What:** The Art of John Lennon

**Where:** The Scottsdale Seville, 7001 N. Scottsdale Road (at Indian Bend Road)

**When:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 3

**How much:** Free

**Info:** (800) 778-9988

## EAST VALLEY EXHIBITS

**Agnese Udinotti: Painting, Sculpture, Ceramic** (Udinotti Gallery, 4215 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, [480] 946-7056). Haunting dreamlike figures expressionistic in mode with a strong touch of lyricism. Through Thu. Free.

**Anthology of Mother and Child** (Figarelli Fine Art, 7610 E. McDonald Drive, Scottsdale, [480] 609-7077). Sculpture of

mother and child by Allan Houser. Through March 21. Free.

**Art After Forty** (Outlooks Unlimited, 2920 E. University Drive, Suite 113, Mesa, [480] 833-2833). Watercolor paintings by local artist Laurie Milliron. Ongoing. Free.

**Brett Weston and Randy Efron: Mentor and Apprentice** (Amore Mills Gallery, 7116 E. First Ave., Scottsdale, [480] 421-6644). Photographs by the master Brett Weston and his apprentice. Through March 28.

**Brian Blackham** (Duley-Jones Gallery, 7100 E. Main St., Scottsdale, [480] 945-8475). Still-life paintings of simple everyday objects that explore the contrast of light and dark. Through April. Free.

**Charles Pabst** (Charles H. Pabst Gallery, 7021 E. Main St., Scottsdale, [480] 874-4780). Original oil paintings of the Southwest. Ongoing. Free.

**Dale Kesel** (Vision Gallery, 80 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler, [480] 917-6859). Striking

landscape photographs of the Southwest. Through Thu. Free.

**Desert Rumination** (Rezurrection Gallery, 601 W. University Drive, Tempe, [480] 377-9080). Arizona scenes, flora and fauna by painter Melissa Martinez. Through March 6. Free.

**Explorations in Form and Matter** (Asietique, 7045 E. Third Way, Scottsdale, [480] 421-1818). Arizona artists Jerry Gluck and James Peters will display their



# LENNON

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Images include their wedding ceremony, honeymoon and the famous "bed-in" for peace. The full set of drawings is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"When I received the drawings from John, I thought they were very beautiful," Yoko Ono says by phone from her home/office at the famed Dakota building on New York's Upper West Side. The locale was the scene of Lennon and Ono's life together as well as the location of Lennon's tragic death. It was directly outside the building that Lennon was shot and killed on Dec. 8, 1980.

"The drawings are very personal," Ono says. "I didn't understand, at the time, the impact it would create in the world." Ono is referencing the first exhibition of the drawings, which included erotic images, at the London Art Gallery in 1970. After one day, Scotland Yard closed the show and the erotic lithographs were confiscated.

"At the time, Picasso was displaying erotic drawings, but not accused," Ono says. "Because it was John, those kinds of things happened."

"At the beginning, putting on these shows of John's drawings was hard for me," Ono admits. "It was a reminder of

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Lennon's drawings reveal the strong bond he had with his family, and his portraits capture the essence of her subjects. Ono is portrayed with her wide, floppy-brimmed hat and her oversize, round sunglasses on her petite frame. Lennon's self-portrait is uncannily accurate. With a few quick lines, he captures his own persona with signature glasses and long, shaggy hair. The portraits are whimsical, and yet reveal his fierce love and admiration for Ono.

Lennon documented their wedding by sketching their private ceremony before the judge. "Our wedding was not totally spontaneous or totally planned," Ono says. "We knew we wanted to make it a private event. John wanted to get married on the boat from Southampton to France — he thought that would be very romantic — but it no longer sailed. So we went on our honeymoon to Paris anyway, and then went to Gibraltar to get married. And

then we went back to Paris for the rest of our honeymoon.

"John had this idea that we should get married in all religions and in all the countries we visited," Ono says, laughing. "I said to him, 'We could be doing that all our lives. No, we have better things to do, dear.'"

"Then, we had the 'bed-in,'" continues Ono, referring to the legendary week the couple spent together in bed as a plea for peace, holding press conferences at the Amsterdam Hilton. "We chose Amsterdam because, at the time, there was an active movement in Amsterdam — it was a hip place. And, oh yes, because all the other hotels said no," Ono says.

In 1975, their son Sean was born and Lennon captured many of the family's day-to-day activities in his sketchbook. Richard Horowitz, curator of the exhibition, says "John had an incredibly close relationship with Sean. In some ways, he was trying to rewrite his part as father. When his older son, Julian, from his first marriage, was born, it was just when the Beatles were taking off. He was



not able to be home and spend time with Julian.

"When Sean was born, John truly became the house husband and Yoko ran the business. What is so tragic is that Sean was just 5 when John was killed."

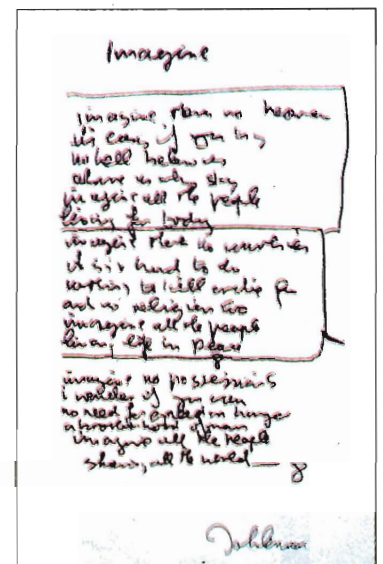
Lennon's death shook the world. "It was a worldwide event," Ono says. "I knew that was going on — on a peripheral level — and I thought I better take care of the fans. For me, it was a very private thing that happened. My body was shaking and I literally had a difficult time walking."

Today, Ono can cast her gaze, from her apartment window, over New York's Central Park's "Strawberry Fields" — the city's memorial to Lennon. She muses on the more recent tragic events in New York on Sept. 11: "These are dark times, yet we still have to make things better, and I think we will."

Ono references Lennon's legendary song "Imagine" (the lyrics were recently found in Tokyo and will be showcased at the Scottsdale show): "We should not do anything except imagine. When I say that, most people ask, 'Can't we do something more than imagine?' However, imagine is a very strong thing to do.

"We can visualize all people living in peace."

Writer Amy Abrams can be reached at [acabrams1@aol.com](mailto:acabrams1@aol.com).



Lennon's hand-written lyrics to "Imagine."

sculptures. Through Thu. Free.

**Gloria Gaddis** (Chiaroscuro Gallery, 7160 Main St., Scottsdale, [480] 429-0713). Oil abstract paintings with luminous colors. Through March 12. Free.

**Icons** (Bishop Gallery, 7164 E. Main St., Scottsdale, [480] 949-9062). Collections of 18th- and 19th-century Russian Christian icons and Judaica. Ongoing. Free.

**Images From the Mind** (Victoria Boyce

Galleries, 7130 E. Main St., Scottsdale, [480] 941-2494). Bold contemporary paintings by Cuban artist Paul Sierra. Ongoing. Free.

**In Loving Memory** (Wilde Meyer Gallery, 4142 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, [480] 945-2323). Vibrant paintings of animals by Ron Burns. Through Thu. Free.

**John Tuomisto-Bell** (g2 Gallery, 4200 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, [480] 429-7729). Primitive, figurative sculptures in bronze. Through Sat. Free.

**Many Faces, One Spirit** (Gammage Auditorium, Mill Avenue and Apache Boulevard, Tempe, [480] 965-4050). A portrait study of the Jewish community of the Southwest by local photographer Susan Frank. Through March 17. Free.

**Morgan Weistling** (Trailside Gallery, 7330 Scottsdale Mall, Scottsdale, [480] 945-7751). 15 oil figurative and still-life paintings. Mon. through Thu. Free.

**Northlight Southwest 2002** (Northlight

Gallery, ASU campus, Tyler and Forest malls, Tempe, [480] 965-8495). Photographs by nine artists from the Southwest. Through March 5. Free.

**Permanent Collection: Loans, Acquisitions and Gifts** (ASU Nelson Fine Arts Center, 10th Street and Mill Avenue, Tempe, [480] 965-2787). A revolving exhibition of items from the museum's own contemporary collection and items on loan, including works by Cindy Sherman, Leon Golub and Andy Warhol. Ongoing. Free.