For its annual still life invitational, aptly titled *The Still Life*, Elliott Fouts Gallery brings together some of today’s leading artists creating unique and contemporary works. Artists participating in this year’s show are Elizabeth Barlow, Leigh-Anne Eagerton, Jelaine Faunce, Teresa N. Fischer, Michael E. Hockenbury, Alvin Richard, Joanne Tepper, and Kathrine Lemke Waste.

Richard will present *Peanuts come to Life*, an homage to Charles Schulz. As Richard explains, “The genesis for [the painting] occurred while doing research on a previous painting also inspired by the illustrator’s famous cartoon. In 1950, in order to avoid confusion with two other comic strips with similar names, United Feature Syndicate would change Schulz’s proposed titled of *Li’l Folks* to *Peanuts*. Upon further research on the origin of the name going back to the *Peanut Gallery*, the whole narrative came to me. It was just a matter of time until I found the proper props to bring the whole concept to my easel. Also a perfect vehicle in continuing my pursuit to document popular culture while using still life paintings.”

*His Dress Boots* is one of the paintings in Barlow’s series *In Their Shoes*. It was inspired by the spirit of portraiture, but using the still life genre. “…I create ‘portraits’ of real people using their belongings rather than their faces to tell their stories,” says Barlow. “*His Dress Boots* is a ‘portrait’ of an Oregon cattle rancher—the father of a friend—who died at the age of 99. These boots were his ‘dress boots,’ which he wore faithfully to the Pendleton Round-up for decades. The beautiful worn sheen of the boots and their deep wrinkles illustrate some of this man’s story of hard work, integrity and pride.”

Ray guns, blasters, water pistols and more captivate Fischer. “I love them. I love to paint contemporary still lifes...
Alvin Richard, *Peanuts come to Life, an homage to Charles Schulz*, acrylic on gessoed hardboard, 11 x 14"

Teresa N. Fischer, *Zap*, oil on panel, 16 x 20"

them,” elaborates Fischer who spotlights the toy in her painting *Zap*. “I love their graphics, I love their shapes, I love their colors. I love when they are chipped or scratched. Most of all I love how my imagination sends me out to space, wondering about rocket ships, invaders, Martians, and new planets to land on and discover.”

A pert yellow finch lands briefly in Tepper’s *Sunflower and Friends*, inspiring a painting in various shades of yellow. The warm, golden glow was created by layering oil paints, and the strong light captures first the sunflower then the finch in the shadows. ●