

The Arts NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2018



Article by CHRIS GRAF for The Ballston Journal, reprinted with permission
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After retiring in 2010, Ballston Spa resident Darlene Van Sickle had two things on her bucket list. She accomplished the first by traveling to Nevada to visit her sister. Circumstances had kept them apart for 34 years, and their reunion was a joyous one. The second item on Van Sickle's list was a bit more complicated.

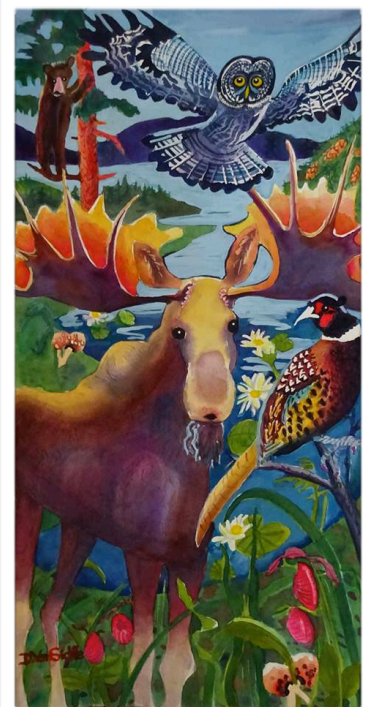
"I wanted to learn to paint watercolors," she says. "Something was tugging at me, and I wanted to be creative." Before retiring, there was little time for creativity in her life. As a principal attorney employed by New York State, she supervised 10 attorneys and came home exhausted at the end of each day.

Van Sickle became a lawyer after discovering her passion for law while teaching business law to high school students. After a 9-year career in teaching, she enrolled in Syracuse University's School of Law. But it was while attending college to earn her teaching degree that she first discovered her interest in painting.

"I took one elective in oil painting because I thought it would be fun," remembers Van Sickle. "It was really fun, but I was too busy after that to paint."

After retiring, she tracked down her former high school teaching colleague, watermedia artist Betty O'Brien teaches students in her studio in the Shirt Factory. Von Sickle became one of O'Brien's students and also began taking classes from Susan Wiley at Saratoga Arts.

"Between Betty and Susan, I was so inspired to paint," says Van



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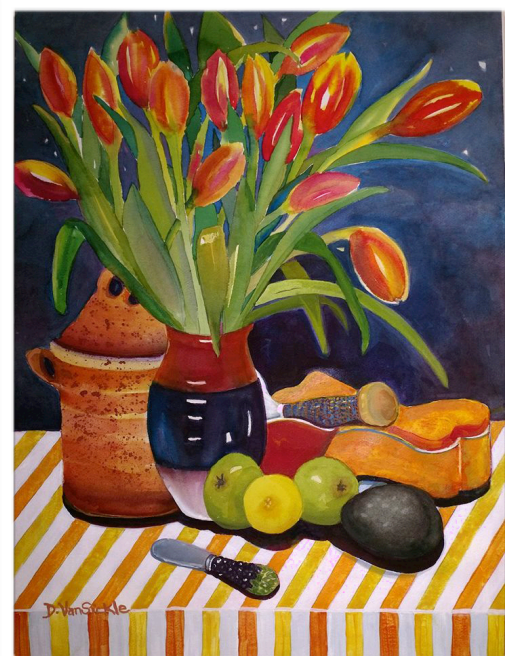
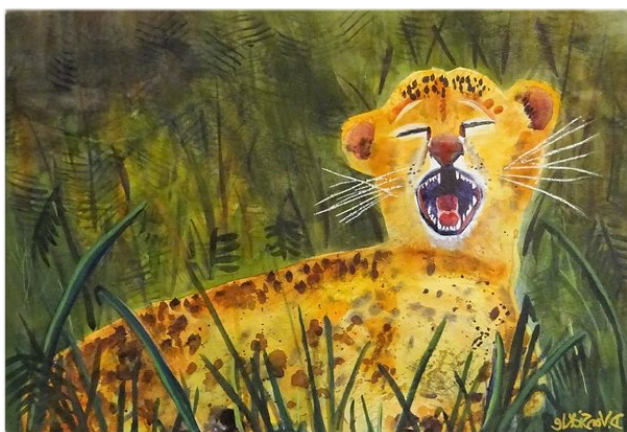


Sickle. "They both taught me that if you paint what you love, the joy will come through in your work."

As a result, she began painting what she loved—animals. An animal lover since childhood, Van Sickle says she has always tried to imagine what animals were thinking.

"I try to figure out an animal's personality and try to bring that personality out in my paintings," she says. "I think I've been successful. People really like my animal paintings."

Van Sickle has had the opportunity to display her art at several venues. She has had two shows at the second floor gallery at Glens Falls City Hall, and she sold two paintings at each show. Her



paintings range in price from \$280 to \$450.

Her giraffe painting, "Tall Drink of Water," won the second place "Best in Show" award at the 2018 Winter Art Show at [Paul Nigra Creative Center for the Arts](#) in Gloversville. There were more than 110 pieces of art at the show, and Von Sickle never expected to receive an award. She says she was thrilled with and surprised by the honor.

Although Van Sickle says her favorite paintings are those that are included in her Adirondack Series of animal paintings, she also enjoys painting floral still lifes. She hopes to branch out into plein air painting (outdoor landscape painting) but says it is much more difficult to paint with watercolors outdoors.

"Watercolors dry so fast outdoors, and once they dry, you are limited with what you can do. There is less room for errors, and I make a lot of errors," she says with a laugh. She credits her husband, Josh, with being her biggest fan and number one supporter. Her work hangs throughout their home, but not all of her paintings make it to walls. "He tells me which ones he doesn't like," she says, laughing once again.

Van Sickle's smile disappears when she mentions the passing of another one of her teachers, [Victor Liguori](#). The former Director of Art at Skidmore College died in January at the age of 86. "I'm really going to miss him," says Van Sickle.

She has been spending less time with a brush in her hand since Liguori's passing but wants to get back to painting on a regular basis. Her most recent painting was of her German Shepherd puppy.

"I'm only painting once a month, and I want to push myself to paint more than that," she says. "I get a lot of joy out

of painting. When I'm painting, my house is messiest. But I am happiest."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have enjoyed my experience as president of North Country Arts over the last four years and helping to foster new developments. Now it is time for a new president to take over the reigns, who ever that may be. I shall remain on the Board to assist the new president and continue working on grants and special projects. I plan to continue representing NCA as part of the ARTS District of Glens Falls and work on my 5th coloring book, "Dance of Native Americans". Since NCA has existed since 1971, I am sure it will continue in good hands for another half century.

Jacquiline Touba, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors

Winners of NCA's Third Annual Juried Art Show: Expressions, 2018

North Country Arts recently presented four awards at the opening of its Juried Art Show, Expressions, 2018 at the Shirt Factory Gallery, #120, Glens Falls, NY. From 115 submissions by 65 artists, 50 pieces from 30 regional arts were selected by juror Francine Nemer, artist and long-term gallery owner. The awards went to the following artists:

Gold (\$750) went to Shana DeRusso of Fort Edward for her pencil drawing, "Spirit of the Adirondacks," Shana has been doing pencil portraits for over 15 years and has dabbled in many art forms from pottery to painting but pencil is her main choice of medium. This is her first juried show and captured the 1st place award.

The Silver award (\$500) went to Ellen Joyce-Thayer of the Hudson Valley, for her watercolor, "Winter." Joyce started out as an oil painter and received many awards for her work. She also worked in pastels but after retiring she settled in the Hudson Valley and for the last three years she has been doing experimental watercolor. For this work she received an Excellence Award from the North East Watercolor Society.

Thomas Stamatel (bronze - \$250) who also goes by the name Tazmar Tomas received the Bronze Award for his sculpture "Manute," which was formed from one piece of apple wood. Although he studied physical education in college, he worked with wood for 50 years and eventually joined the Boston Woodcarvers Guild which embraced the common cause of the figurative impressionist.

Honorable Mention (\$100) was awarded to Richard Dill, a photographer living in Lake George for his photograph "A Walk in the Woods."



Above: Manute, by Thomas Stamatel (Bronze Winner)



Above: Silver winner "Winter," by Ellen Joyce Thayer

Right:
Francine
Nemer
presents
Shana
Derusso with
the gold award
for "Spirit of
the
Adirondacks."



Left: Richard Dill with juror Francine Nemer

Member News

Marion Kratky Wins 2nd Place Award in Central Adirondack Art Show

The 2018 Central Adirondack Art Show, at View, Old Forge this year awarded Marion Kratky 2nd Place, Masters Division for her oil painting "Willow Browse", Awards Judge, Stephen T. Fletcher. The Exhibition is on display until June 10, 2018.

Marion also had two oil paintings, "To the Little Pines" and "April Thaw" juried into the North Country Arts "Expressions 2018" show at the Shirt Factory Gallery, Suite 120 in Glens Falls. Juror Francine Nemer. Show dates May 5 through May 26, 2018.

The 10th Annual Northville Woodworking and Fine Arts Weekend has selected Marion as one of two featured artists this year. Each year over 60 Artisans participate at this event. The show will be held Friday, July 20 (5-8 pm) , Saturday, July 21 (9-5) and Sunday, July 22 (10-3) at the Northville Town Hall and Park on South Main St. Free and open to the public.

Pamela Stendardi Showing Pen & Ink Drawings

Pamela Stendardi will be showing her pen & ink art work at The Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa at 6 Charlton St. The show is called "Old Favorites" and will be on display June 26- July 29. There will be a reception on Friday, July 6, 6-8 p.m. There will also be sculptures by Mitch Misterlich.

Paul Chapman Sees His Artwork Published

Paul has received his copy of **AcrylicWorks 5 - Bold Values**, published by F&W Media, Inc. His painting appears on page 96-97 as the lead for the section on abstract painting (even though this painting is totally realistic!). The book, edited by Jamie Markle, is filled with excellent acrylic artwork from an international base.

Darlene Van Sickle Exhibiting at Northville Public Library and Willows Bistro, Warrensburg

Darlene Van Sickle's exhibit of 24 expressive exhibit, Animal Charm, is at the Northville Public Library until June 28. Her exhibit is being very well received! In July, Darlene will exhibit a mix of her bold florals and colorful animal watercolor paintings at Willow's Bistro in Warrensburg.

Moss & Friends Relocates Studio

Kris Gregson Moss has moved her studio to 145 Everett's Heights Way, Granville, NY, just off County Route 28. Her new studio is located at 1000 ft. elevation overlooking the Green Mountains and the hills of Washington County. A grand opening will take place July 13-15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day. This celebration will coincide with the first annual Artisan Trails event of Washington County. Beautiful views may be seen both inside and outside. (right: Kris' new studio with Simone overseeing the artwork).

Her art medium is fabric and her work has been shown both nationally and internationally, while her most recent prize was 1st place in sculpture at The View in Old Forge, NY. Her studio was previously located at The Shirt Factory on Lawrence Street, Glens Falls.



Betty O'Brien will show her work at a LARAC invitational exhibition called "Atmosphere." The show will also include the works of Diane Swanson, Kristen Dahms, and Leslie Ferst in this last of four invitational shows offered in 2018. The show runs from July 13 - August 10 with an opening reception on Friday, July 13 from 5-8 p.m.

NCA's Second Floor Gallery Summer 2018 Exhibits

BY DENNIS WILSON -

Dianne Leifheit, Dr. Jacqueline Touba and Kathy Byrnes along with NCA Board members are the artists scheduled to exhibit their varied works in NCA's City Hall Gallery this summer.

The schedule is as follows:

2018 SUMMER 2ND FLOOR GALLERY SCHEDULE	DATES OF DISPLAY	RECEPTION
Dianne Leifheit	6/16 - 7/28	6/22 5-7 p.m.
Dr. Jacqueline Touba	7/28 - 9/8	8/3 5-7 p.m.
Kathy Byrnes and NCA Board Members	9/8 - 10/20	9/21 5-7 p.m.

City Hall Gallery's summer exhibition schedule begins with the Adirondack-themed paintings of Dianne Leifheit which went on display during the last few days of spring and will continue into the summer until July 28. For a full description of Ms. Leifheit's work, please refer to our spring, 2018 newsletter which can be accessed via the NCA website.

The second show of the summer will be pen and ink drawings of Southern African dancers and watercolor batiks of international dancers by Dr. Jacqueline Touba, NCA president for the last four years. This exhibit opens on July 28 and closes on September 8th. A reception, open to the public, will be held on Friday, August 3, 5-7 p.m.



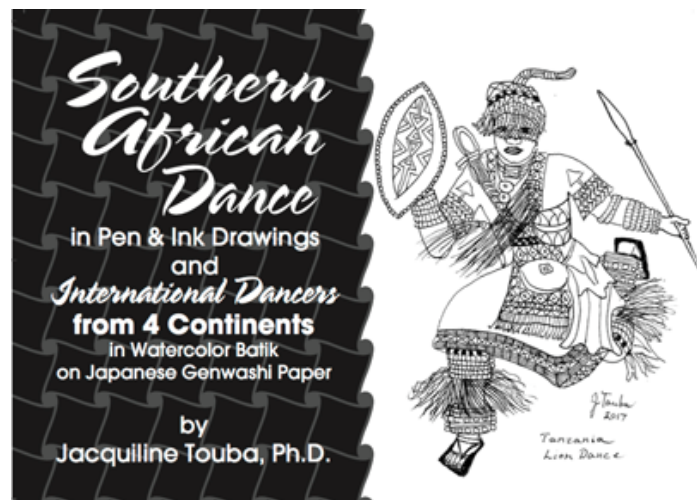
Dr. Touba is a Renaissance woman. A sociologist as well as an artist, Dr. Touba is a Distinguished

Alumnus of Purdue University and a former professor of sociology at the University of Teheran in Iran. In 2009 the New York State Senate honored Dr. Touba with a well-deserved Woman of Distinction award.

Her interest in art and international affairs prompted her to found the World Awareness Children's Museum. After retiring in 2013, she brought her administrative skills to the presidency of NorthCountryARTS. She continued her artistic and international interests by researching and drawing dancers from folk traditions all over the world. You will note that the dancers' costumes seem authentic. Look some more. Dr. Touba has recreated the impression of authenticity by the use of zentangles and other international symbols.

Not long ago, Dr. Touba took a class in watercolor batik and has applied this technique to her sketches of the dancers. She recreated her pen and ink drawings in watercolor to add vibrant colors using a batik technique. Dr. Touba has also produced a coloring book of her Southern African pen and ink drawings which will be available at the opening and at LARAC or NCA Gallery thereafter.

As the summer transitions into fall, the Gallery committee will mount an eclectic exhibition featuring the work of both Kathy Byrnes and NCA past and present board members. Viewers may expect to enjoy photography, wood carving, jewelry, paintings in a variety of mediums, sculptural pieces and ceramics. Originally, Ms. Megan



NCA's Second Floor Gallery Summer 2018 Exhibits (continued from previous page)

Schorpp was scheduled to participate, but was unable to do so. NCA wishes her all the best and hope that she will schedule an exhibition in City Hall as soon as she is able to do so.

Landscape artist Kathy Byrnes joins the board member exhibition this summer. As with many landscape artists, Ms. Byrnes's work begins with the camera that accompanies her in her hikes around the Adirondacks. Later, in her studio, many of the photographs become landscape oil paintings as she puts the images on the canvas. As she paints, she seeks to convey more than a simple image, however; her aim is more to convey the happiness, peace and grounding she feels as she hikes and canoes the Adirondacks.



Kathy is self-taught; a main inspiration for her is PBS artist Bob Ross, known not only for his talent, but also for the calm and ease with which he teaches. A nurse by profession, Kathy has shown her landscapes at the Saratoga Art Center, Healthy Living Market, Saratoga library and the Clifton Park library.

Above all, Kathy wants viewers of her work to “breathe deep, relax, reflect and smile” when they see her paintings.

Please be sure to attend the summer exhibitions and especially the receptions where there will be free goodies and the only chance many of us will get to talk with the artists who create such beautiful work. I have always found these informal, very sociable talks fascinating. More than anything, I learn such a great deal about art and the wonderful people who create it.

NCA Annual Meeting

NCA's Annual Meeting will coincide with the reception for the New Horizons Show at the NCA Gallery at The Shirt Factory on Friday, July 13. The annual review will take place at 5 p.m. during the meeting. Come hear what NCA accomplished during the past year and what plans are for the future. Refreshments will be served.

Nearby Exhibits of Interest

The National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa at 76 Milton Ave will be celebrating its 10th anniversary of the Jan Rutland Artist's Space from July 27 - 9/1. This is a group show with many artist's participating. Reception will be First Friday August 3, 6-8pm.

The Mansion Inn of Saratoga at 801 Rt. 29 in Rock City Falls will have a group art show "Summer Celebration", curated by Pamela Stendardi. It will be an amazing evening in a rustic barn set in the back drop of beautiful gardens, water fountain and a heart shaped pond. The show/reception will be Wednesday August 22, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Roots and Branches - New Works by Betsy Krebs at the Lake George Arts Project - June 22 - 30, 2018, Courthouse Gallery, 1 Amherst St., Lake George - Hours Tuesday-Friday, 12 - 5 p.m., Saturday, 12-4 p.m.

“Roots and Branches,” a mixed medium exhibit created by Betsy Krebs, focuses on the old stone schoolhouse located in the Town of Lake George. The exhibit is the outcome of a grant proposal written in 2017, one of the many granted by the Warren County decentralization NYSCA re-grant program. The genesis of the exhibit evolved from a strong desire to bring attention to the humanitarian nature of the stone schoolhouse. This stoic folk victorian structure exudes strength and protection as a community stronghold and has a notable history. Notable Metropolitan opera singer Madam Homer sang at the schoolhouse every Sunday during the summer months, and Georgia O’Keefe was known to take walks on Middle Rd., as told by a local, Clara Mae Norton. The twenty or so pieces are a spin-off from a recipe book compilation in 1920 by the ladies of the “Lend a Hand” Club that used the building as a meeting place after hours and on weekends. They found ways to help the community in any way they could, with the recipes being the catalyst for each image in the exhibit. The people who submitted the recipes ranged from local community members to notable seasonal residents.

Clay Concepts Studio to Offer Summer Skill Building Mini Class - Step Up to the Plate!

Clay Concepts Studio at the Shirt Factory (suite 312), will be offering a class titled "Step Up to the Plate," during July. This three week class will teach students the skills and techniques to throw a range of "flatware" forms on the pottery wheel. Clay artists will also develop and improve their skills. Previous throwing experience is required.

Three Week Session, \$180 (includes use of wheel, tools, clay, glazes & firings), meet on Saturdays, July 14, 21, & 28, 2018, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. To register: email clayconcepts@yahoo.com or call Dolores at 518-744-2002.

NCA Photography Show

NCA's Annual Photography Show drop off is June 30 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Crandall Public Library Gallery. Two pieces will be accepted at \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. The show runs from July 3 to July 28. Five juror's choice awards will be made and selected that evening. Light refreshments will be served at the reception July 19, 5 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and bring friends to introduce the community to the excellent work of photographers.

NCA Board Members

Officers

Dr. Jacqueline Toubia: President and Juried Show Coordinator, Gallery and Marketing Committees, Grant Writer

Jon Segan: Co-Vice Pres. and Juror's Choice Fine Art and Photo Show Coordinator at Crandall Public Library, Gallery Committee

Sheri Snedeker: Co-Vice Pres. & Gallery Committee

Fred Holman: Treasurer and Marketing Committee Chair

Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien: Secretary, Gallery Committee

Others

Nancy Austin: Newsletter Coordinator and Designer, Marketing Committee

Phil Casabona - Gallery Committee

Diane Dumouchel, Website Reviewer, Visions Program

Maria Clara Castano: Education & Gallery Committees, 2nd Floor Gallery Coordinator

JoAnn Johnson: Marketing Committee

Bev Saunders - Marketing Committee

Dolores Thomson - Marketing Committee

Judith Tully: Gallery Committee and Youth Visions Program Coordinator

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Robin Brewer: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Emily Latterell: Membership Chairperson

Jim Tubbs: Gallery Committee

Russell Hillard: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Adelaide Walsh-Leibold: Gallery Committee

Dennis Wilson: 2nd Floor Gallery Exhibit Writer

Stewart's Shops

2018 North Country Arts Schedule

New Horizons

Drop off - July 7

July 13 - Sept. 1 - Show dates

July 13 - Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.

Sept. 1 - Pickup

Transitions

Drop Off - September 8

Sept. 14 - Nov. 3 - Show dates

Sept. 14 - Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.

Nov. 3 - Pickup

Photography Show at Crandall Public Library

Drop off - June 30

July 3 - 28 - Show dates

Reception and awards - July 19

July 28 - Pickup

Artists' Open Studio Tour

Lower Warren County: Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Upper Warren County: Saturday, August 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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NCA First Artist Open Studio Tour: A Self Driving Tour of 24 Creative Artists in Warren County

North Country Arts' is presenting its first studio tour, and artists will be presenting a wide variety of work in all media. This year, 24 artists will display artwork ranging from drawing, graphic design, painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, embroidery, printmaking and textiles.

The tour encompasses two days - Saturday, August 4 and Saturday, August 11. Artists who have studios in The Shirt Factory will be featured on August 4. On August 11, artists to the north in Warren County will open their studios to the public. A brochure will include maps of both areas and detailed information about the artists. All will be open from 10 a.m. thru 5 p.m. on each of these days.

The tour is as much about the process of creating art as it is about the art works themselves. Artists are present in their studios for the duration of the Tour and are happy to explain their creative approach and answer any questions. All artists are new to the tour: watch for demonstrations and discussions.

This is a self-guided tour and is free of charge. You will leave inspired and eager to explore other studios. Check NCA's website for maps and details.

This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council. And, in part by the Warren County occupancy tax money regranted by the City of Glens Falls.



JUNE 14 - 23



**SOME
LOVERS**

JULY 5 - 14

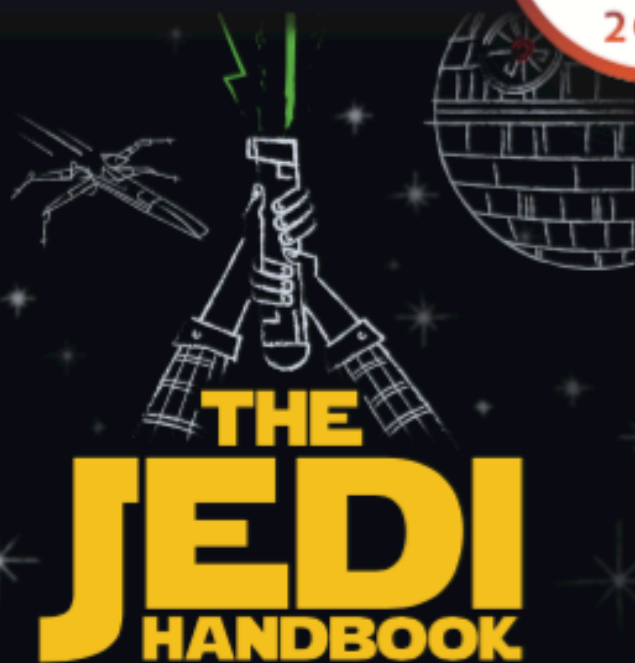
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JULY 20 - 27

AUGUST 3 - 9

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