

# The Arts NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2018



Stephanie Gabris was born in Glens Falls, NY and it wasn't until her college years in Helena, Montana she acquired a passion for photography. She borrowed her mother's camera to take a photography course offered as an elective at the college. Since there wasn't a budget for the type of darkroom the professor wanted to build, the class mainly concentrated on the mechanics of the camera, proper shutter speeds, lighting, etc. When her father saw the photographs she brought back from her travels, he loaned her his own film developing/printing equipment with some instruction on how to use them and that was it!

Largely self-taught, she perfected her printing and developing skills taking continuing education courses at the School of Visual Arts and The New School for Social Research in

New York City, where she studied with some of the city's best photographers including renowned photographer George Tice.

She and her husband moved to a larger apartment in Brooklyn in the early 1990s where she was able to create a "real" darkroom from a walk-in closet which was the ideal situation for her, she could work until the wee hours of the morning if she wanted to without people telling her it was time to leave.

"I love to photograph the hidden and the quirky in landscapes or the humorous side of life", she once said of her work. She has shown extensively in New York City, Helena, Montana and most recently in Glens Falls. One of her photographs was featured in a full-page advertisement in The New York Times in the 1990s for a health club where she worked. "I was flattered they considered me

Above, L to R: Sunday at the New York Botanic Gardens, Currents Spring - Lake George, and Aged 2 - Saratoga Spa State Park.

"professional" enough to do a photo shoot for them, too bad I never got the 17.625% commission that went with it, but I can say that I did get published in the New York Times!"

Stephanie and her husband both retired from their respective jobs in 2013 and headed north to their home in Queensbury. "I was 'city-ed out'", she said and wanted to move back to her hometown. She had more time to photograph now and took advantage of "pointing the car north" and wherever she landed, that was where she photographed. Recently, she has become interested in photographing closeups of light playing on the water and it was here, her "Lightplay" series evolved and is still evolving. "I want to do more of

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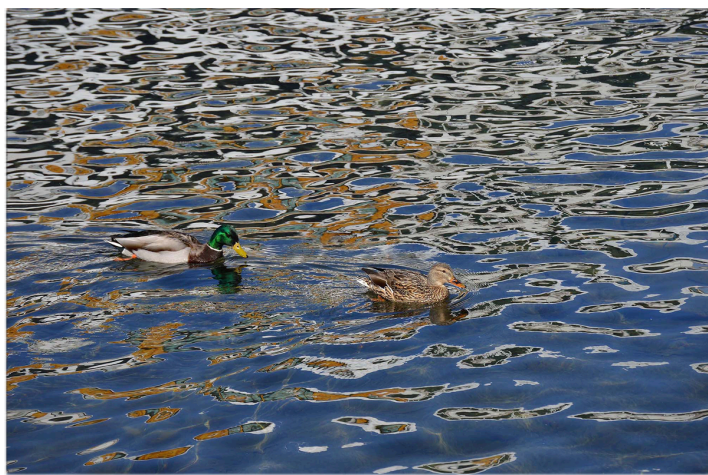


this. Some of the photographs I created remind me of abstract paintings and it spurs me to do more with this series.”

In the winter, when the lakes were frozen she started photographing freezing and refreezing ice which resulted in some interesting shapes, one of which looked like the Native character Kokopelli! Even in her neighborhood she would photograph the same freezing and refreezing ice puddle with her iPhone resulting in different abstractions each time the same frozen puddle was photographed.

2017 was a year of firsts for Stephanie. Her photograph “Mirrors” won third place in the Shirt Factory Gallery’s Small Works Exhibition in 2017 and she opened her first solo photography show “Lightplay ADK” in December at North Country Arts’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gallery at City Hall that received wonderful reviews by all who saw the show.

She resides in Queensbury, New York with her husband George, a sculptor/painter and their feathered kid, Boo Boo. She is a past North Country Arts board member serving as board secretary and served on the marketing committee as a public relations coordinator.



Above: Lightplay - October 9, Lake George.



Above: Currents Spring - Lake George.

Left: In the Shadow of the Horicon Bridge.

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## Grants Received

NCA received a Grant to partially fund the Artists Open Studio Tour in Glens Falls and Upper Warren County 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 NYS Legislature and administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.

The tour in Glens Falls will take place at the Shirt Factory with many artists participating on August 4, 2018 from 10am to 5pm. The upper Warren County tour will be on Aug. 11th from 10am to 5pm. See the article on the Artists Open Studio Tour (back page).

A Grant has been submitted to the GF Bed Tax to help with marketing this program.

A foundation grant has been received to fund the awards and reception for the Juried Show Expressions 2018.

## North Country Arts Announces the Winners of the 8th Annual Youth Visions Exhibit

North Country Arts recently held its 8th Annual Youth Visions Juried High School Art Exhibit. The awards reception took place on February 16th. As always, the selection of awards is a difficult task. The jurors for this year's show were local artists Paul Chapman and Jacqueline Toubia, PhD., who is also the North Country Arts Board president. Out of the 57 pieces showcased, five were selected to receive awards. The recipients received a \$50 monetary award and an honorary NCA membership. Students who received awards were:



**Excellence in Mixed Media:** Graceann Bennett of Lake George for her creative interpretation of mixed media "Legacy Tribute to Pat Summitt."

**Excellence in Drawing:** Alysen Bruce of Schroon Lake for her wonderfully eye-catching work "Origami Crane."

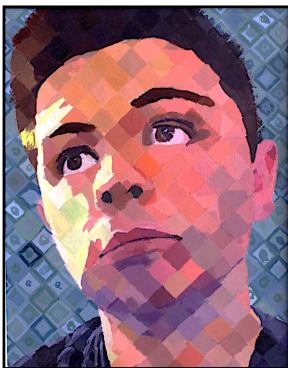
**Excellence in Photography:** Michaela DeFranco of North Warren Central School for capturing the beauty of the light in her digital photograph "Abstruse."

**Excellence in Painting:** Jenna Gillingham of South Glens Falls for her carefully constructed acrylic painting "Block Painting."

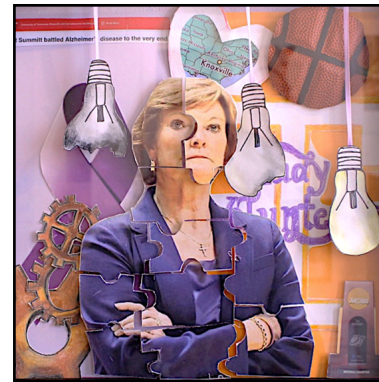
**Excellence in Jewelry:** Jack Kelleher of Lake George for his work "Amigo Trio", three exquisitely crafted bands of etched nickel silver.

This exhibit was made possible by the generous contributions of the Stewart Shops and our organization North Country Arts. Without sponsorship, this exhibit would not have been possible. We also would like to express our gratitude to all those NCA members who kindly gave their time and energy to make this program a success. And to the young artists and their teachers who shared their artistic vision, a special acknowledgement and thank you.

Art is a journey work making and NCA sincerely hopes that all will continue to create and display art.

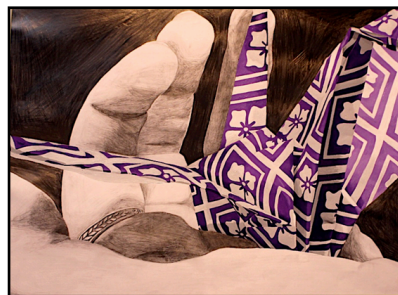


Left and award winner below: Block Painting - Jenna Gillingham



Above: Tribute to Pat Summitt - Graceann Bennett

Left: Amigo Trio - Jack Kelleher



Left: Origami Crane - Alysen Bruce

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this, officially it will be SPRING and I hope it will really be spring.

We had a successful \$99 show in the depths of winter so this may be a way of stimulating sales after the Christmas holidays. I hope you all are assisting with marketing the gallery shows by sharing NCA's Facebook page every time you see something new. We are trying to improve our marketing of NCA's activities by hiring a person to do the work of imputing all the data in to the multitude of online systems required by even traditional news media. Many thanks to volunteer Stephanie Gabris who fulfilled this task for a long time and did a superb job getting our name and activities into both the print and social media. All of the other tasks are still being accomplished by volunteers. Kudos also to Nancy Austin who has done a great job upgrading the newsletter into a colorful document for the members to enjoy. Member news is always welcome and is encouraged. Send your news to [info@northcountryarts.org](mailto:info@northcountryarts.org) and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

You will hear from me one more time before I step down as president of NCA. I feel we have accomplished a great deal during my two terms (nearly four years) in office. Now it is time for someone with new ideas and enthusiasm to take over the reigns in July. I have been mentioning this for the last six months so if someone is interested in helping the organization move forward please let me or any other Board member know. Happy Spring.

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

## EXPRESSIONS 2018 - A JURIED SHOW WITH AWARDS

May 5 to May 26, 2018 -- at the Shirt Factory Gallery, Suite 120

**Save the date**, Sat. May 5th to attend NCA's third juried art show opening reception through [onlinejuriedshows.com](http://onlinejuriedshows.com). Juror Francine Nemer will be on hand at the awards ceremony to explain her selection of the Gold Award (\$750), Silver Award (\$500) and Bronze Award (\$250). If you entered the show or even if you did not enter, try to attend the reception from 5-7 on Sat. May 5th.

Notification of acceptance will be emailed by April 20, 2018.

**Drop Off at the the Shirt Factory Gallery #120 - Wed. April 26 to Sat. 28, 12 - 5 p.m.**

**Unsold work pick up Wed. May 30 to Sat. June 2, 12 - 5 p.m.**

**DEADLINE - APRIL 1**

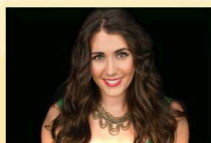


## Music from the Heavens

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4pm  
Glens Falls High School, Glens Falls, NY

- **J.S. Bach** - Cantata No. 51 featuring soloists *Chelsea Basler, Soprano* and *Ryan Noe, Trumpet*
- **Gustav Mahler** - Symphony No. 4

*This concert sponsored by grant from the Touba Family Foundation*



### TICKETS & INFO

[theglensfallssymphony.org](http://theglensfallssymphony.org)  
518-793-1348



### Special Pre-Concert Events

#### Bach's Big Birthday!

**Symphony Film Series at Crandall Library – Mon., April 23, 7pm**  
Celebrating Bach's 333<sup>rd</sup> birthday with movie on Bach's life, piano music by Kyra Lombard, and birthday cake! Free and open to public.

#### Symphony Lounge!

**Wednesday, April 25, 6:30-8pm at the Queensbury Hotel**  
Enjoy light fare, beverage, and the company of fellow music lovers. Short performance, Q&A with featured soloist, Soprano Chelsea Basler. Tickets \$25 includes one drink ticket, hors d'oeuvres.

## NCA's Second Floor Gallery Spring 2018 Exhibits

BY DENNIS WILSON -

Val Robert, Tam Doolittle, and Dianne Leifheit are the artists scheduled to exhibit their varied works in NCA's City Hall Gallery this spring.

The schedule is as follows:

2018 SPRING 2ND FLOOR GALLERY SCHEDULE	DATES OF DISPLAY	RECEPTION
Val Robert	3/24 - 5/5	4/13 5-7 p.m.
Tam Doolittle	5/5 - 6/16	5/18 5-7 p.m.
Dianne Leifheit	6/16 - 7/28	6/22 5-7 p.m.

The exhibition of the graphic and colorful acrylic paintings of Val Robert starts in the transition period between winter and spring, and we included a description of his works in our winter newsletter. It can be viewed online at [NorthCountryARTS.org](http://NorthCountryARTS.org).

Next in this spring's exhibition schedule is the unique sculpture of Tam Doolittle. A native of Glens Falls, Tam is currently a student at Albany's College of St. Rose; she is majoring in fine arts with a specialization in sculpture. Her particular interest is in origami and other forms of paper sculpture to emphasize the theme of man's degradation of the environment.

In a surreal manner, and with the use of origami, quilling, and decoupage, Tam will portray aquatic life. She creates her pieces by sculpting and layering paper to imitate the forms she desires. Then she replicates the sculpture in metal, and blends both substances. The effect of each piece is the sense that man, symbolized by metal, is overlaying a hard, industrialized world over nature which is far more fragile. Industrialized man thrives while nature suffers. Tam's pieces will consist of both floor sculptures and hanging wall sculptures.

As spring flows into summer, City Hall Gallery exhibits the pastel paintings of Dianne Leifheit, who won "Best of Show" awards at the Adirondack Plein Air festival, Saranac Lake, in 2010 and 2011. A prolific artist, Ms. Leifheit has exhibited extensively within the Adirondacks since 2005, and the NCA City Hall exhibit will be her first outside the Blueline.

An artist for much of her life, Ms. Leifheit's paintings depict mainly faces and Adirondack landscapes in shapes she describes as big and simple. Throughout her work, her goal is "to capture the essence, to create resonance in the image." She achieves this by beginning a drawing in a sketchbook and then transitioning to the use of sanded art paper backed by mat board. She builds up color and then washes it all down. Edges are "lost" in this process, and dark and light shift. She then continues the painting seeking color gradations and nuances.

All NCA members and their friends are invited to the receptions at the dates given above. The receptions are open to the public as well. Please attend and enjoy these beautiful and thought-provoking exhibitions. By all means, take advantage of these events to meet and question the artists, too! All art below by Val Robert.



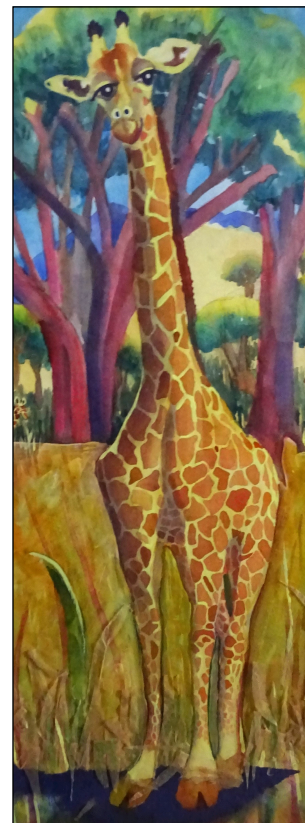
## Member News

NCArts Member Darlene Van Sickle recently won Second Place for Best in Show at the 2018 Winter Art Show at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Gloversville. Darlene's piece, "A Tall Drink of Water," (right) was one of over 110 pieces of art on display until April 4. Additionally, Darlene was recently featured in an article of the February 14, 2018 edition of the Ballston Journal! Darlene is looking forward to her next exhibit, *Animal Charm*, at the Sacandaga Valley Artists Network from May 1 through June 28, 2018. This is a solo exhibit featuring Ms. Van Sickle's expressive and colorful animals.

Right: *A Tall Drink of Water*

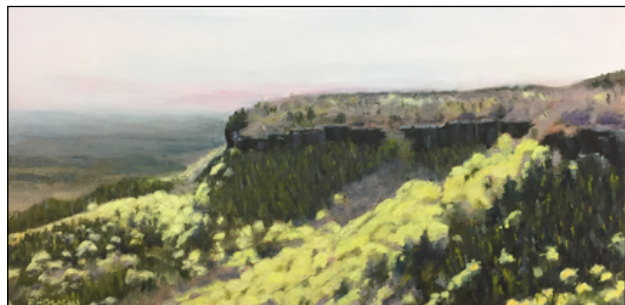


Nancy Austin's gourd work, titled "Primal Fire," (left) using pine needles and found metal objects, won the Dimensions Award at the recent 2018 Shirt Factory Gallery's Small Works Show.



## Fred Holman to Display at the Arkell Gallery in Canajoharie

Fred Holman has a solo show of 18 landscapes and figurative pieces in the Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie. The exhibit will run from March 9 – May 9, 2018. Artwork below by Fred Holman.



— LOWER ADIRONDACK REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL —  
**LARAC**  
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## MEMBERS SHOW DROP OFF May 14– 19

All Members of LARAC can put in one piece of art. The hanging fee is \$5.  
(Artists can become members the day of drop off.)

Members Show Dates:  
May 25– June 29

For more information:  
(518)798-1144 ext. 2 or [information@larac.org](mailto:information@larac.org)

[www.LARAC.org](http://www.LARAC.org)



## Call for Member Input for NCA Website

NCA would like to update its website to better fit the needs of its membership. Therefore we are asking the membership to review the website and point out any difficulties you have in negotiating the website. What would you like improved, added or subtracted. Send your written suggestions to [info@northcountryarts.org](mailto:info@northcountryarts.org).

## Proof of Insurance Needed for High Priced Items at Second Floor Gallery

If you are an artist displaying work that is priced at \$1500 or over, you need to have insurance and be able to provide a certificate proving that you have insurance to the City of Glens Falls. They do not want to have any liability caused by theft or damage to the artwork.

## NCA Board Members

### Officers

**Dr. Jacqueline Touba:** 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

**Dolores Adamson:** Gallery Committee

**Nancy Austin:** Newsletter Coordinator and Designer, Marketing Committee

**Diane Dumouchel,** Website Reviewer, Visions Program

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

**JoAnn Johnson:** Marketing Committee

**Dolores Thomson** - New Board Member, Marketing Committee

**Judith Tully:** Gallery Committee and Youth Visions Program Coordinator

## Non-Board Volunteers

**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

### Renewal

Drop Off - March 10

March 16 - April 28 - Show dates

March 16 - Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.

April 28 - Pickup

### Awakening

Drop off - May 5

May 11 - June 30 - Show dates

May 11 - Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.

June 30 - Pickup

### 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 Library

Drop off - July 1

July 3 - 28 - Show dates

Reception and awards - July 19

July 28 - Pickup



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## Studio Tour

NorthCountryARTS will hold its first Studio Tour this Summer. The tour is scheduled for Saturdays on two weekends. August 4 will highlight artists in the Shirt Factory in Glens Falls. August 11 will introduce participants to artists in northern Warren County. The committee planning this event includes Nancy Austin, Fred Holman, JoAnn Johnson, Betty O'Brien and Jacqueline Toubia. Nancy Austin will be preparing all the graphics for the event including the program and signs for each venue. The event is funded in part through a grant from LARAC. There is much to do, so anyone interested in assisting in this event should contact Fred Holman at [fholman186@yahoo.com](mailto:fholman186@yahoo.com).



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.