

The Arts NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2019



Dolores Thomson has been creating with clay for more than 25 years. She studied ceramics independently at Skidmore College and attended regional clay workshops to learn various techniques. She worked as a teacher's assistant for 12 years for Skidmore's Special Programs Raku class. She has taught children's clay classes at BOCES and other local clay studios.

Dolores studied art and art history at SUNY Adirondack, and graduated Summa Cum Laude with an A.A.S. degree in Communications and Media Arts. While at SUNY Adirondack, she received the Academic Excellence Award in Communication / Media Arts - Photography Emphasis, the Student Award for Excellence for her watercolor "Lily", and the Parnassus Award for Art History.



She states, "Clay is limitless in its form and expression, and I enjoy the challenge of exploring and learning the variety of techniques of the ceramic process. I am inspired by the textures and shapes found in nature - flowers, trees, leaves, bark and shells, and by the spirit and aesthetics of Native American and Asian design.

The majority of my ceramic work consists of wheel thrown vessels. In ancient times the vessel was a symbol of the Feminine; the giver of life, well being and nourishment. For me, the vessel is representative of



things that matter and need to be kept safe, and I find symmetry and grace in the simple lines of the quiet forms.

I especially like to Raku or Sagger fire my vessels, which imparts exciting color, patterns and textures on the forms, furthering their connection to the Earth through the elements of smoke and fire. These firing processes are done quickly in an outdoor kiln. For Raku, glaze formulated for Raku firing is applied to bisque fired pottery. When the kiln reaches 1832o, in about two hours, the pieces are pulled from the kiln and placed in a metal can containing hay or sawdust, which immediately ignites. The can is then quickly covered, smothering the flames to create a reduction atmosphere in the can. The result is often beautiful

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flashes of color where the pottery was “kissed” by the fire. Raku firing was originally adopted by the Japanese for their tea ceremony, loosely translated the word Raku means enjoyment.

The Sagger Firing process uses no glazes. Bisque fired pottery is placed in a closed clay container, or sagger, which is then filled with sawdust, rock salt, copper wire, sulfates and organic material which burn up during the firing. The kiln is fired to 1832o, and allowed to cool before opening. It's always exciting opening the kiln to see the results the blushes of color and patterns on the vessels achieved from the firing and fumes of the combustible materials. Both the Raku and Sagger firing processes are exciting, and I can hardly wait for the moment when the kiln is opened and the results are revealed.

The challenge to explore and express myself through clay has been a journey of self-discovery. Clay has taught me to have patience, to seek balance and harmony, and to embrace the unexpected results. By its very nature, clay connects us to the Earth, and I find my awareness and appreciation of the world around me heightened. As I continue to create with clay, I continue to create myself.

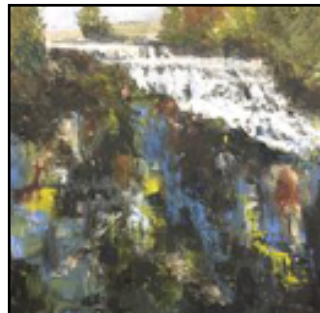


Clay Concepts Studio Spring Session will start the week of March 18th.

Offering: Eight week wheel throwing classes, Hand building workshops, "Try-it" classes & Private Lessons
Visit the website for class information
www.clayconceptspottery.com

Member News

Several NCA members were accepted into a juried show at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, Gloversville. The Center provides a creative educational resource through classes, entertainment, exhibitions and special events. Marion Kratky won Best in Show for her work, “Hatch Creek.” Paul Chapman’s painting “In the Beginning” was selected Second Best in Show. Marion Kratky also won People’s Choice at the Sweetheart Deal Show. Additionally, Fred Holman has received Second Best in Show for his piece “The Falls” in The Shirt Factory’s Small Works Juried Art Show.



From l to r: “Hatch Creek,” by Marion Kratky, “In the Beginning,” by Paul Chapman, and “The Falls,” by Fred Holman

North Country Arts Involvement with Arts District of Glens Falls -- NCA is Represented, by Jacqueline Touba, Ph.D.

For the last four years, NCA has been active with the Arts District of Glens Falls (ADGF) to create a trail which would connect all the arts organizations located within walking distance of the downtown area. Some years ago ADGF applied for a grant for the project from the DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) \$10 million awarded to the City of Glens Falls by NYS two years ago. The ADGF was awarded funding but has not yet received it although it is anticipated to be released this spring.

One part of the proposal is to create a general website where each organization will have a separate page and be marketed to the public which will be created by Mannix Marketing and it was approved. In addition, North Country Arts will be awarded \$4500 to upgrade its own website so that its individual members will be able to have a separate page of their own on the website. NCA is required to contribute a \$1500 match to receive the money. The work will be done by Advokate. All members should start thinking about what they would like to have on their page -- description of the artist, the work, photos, exhibits, etc. We'll let you know in an eblast when we need the information. Since NCA will be linked to the ADGF website, each member will be reaching a much larger audience.

In addition to e-marketing, there will be a trifold rack card with information about each organization that will be distributed for three years through a distribution company in hotels, restaurant, etc, in the Lake George and upper Warren County, Saratoga and Capital District regions from May through September. Thus, NCA will be getting into areas heretofore inaccessible to the organization due to the cost.

The rest of the immediate project will entail colorful ADGF banners which will be erected on lampposts and sidewalk markers stenciled along the trail, and 10 artistic bicycle racks installed near each of the locations of the organizations in the ADGF. NCA will have one at City Hall and at the Shirt Factory.

Once this phase is complete, the second phase of the project is to have sculptures, murals and other art along the trail. There will be a call for artists to submit proposals for this phase. Stay tuned for more details on this. Meantime, the 13 organizations continue to meet monthly to collaborate and share information and ideas.

Studio Tour Planning Begins

NorthCountryARTS is holding its 2nd annual Artists Studio Tour in August. This year we have expanded it to two days each weekend. Glens Falls/Queensbury will be held the first weekend, August 3 & 4 and North Warren will be August 10 & 11. If you are interested in participating and are not one of the 30 artists already signed up, please contact Fred Holman at fholman186@gmail.com by June 1, 2019.

Grant News

NYS Decentralization Grant -- North Country Arts was awarded \$4500 toward its enhanced Open Studio Tour to take place on two weekends and four days. It will be in southern Warren County including Glens Falls, Queensbury and Lake George, on August 3 and 4, from 10am to 5pm and upper Warren County on Aug. 10 and 11 from 10am to 5pm. Anyone interested in participating should contact Fred Holman at fholman186@yahoo.com. The grant funds will help pay for the advertising, and booklet that will be produced for the tour.

Touba Family Foundation Grant -- NCA received \$2500 for its juried exhibition Expressions 2019, which will take place in May 2019 at the Shirt Factory Gallery, Suite 120. The funds will go towards a reception for an awards ceremony and three major awards which will be presented on May 4, 2019 from 5 to 7pm. The juror for Expressions 2019 is Jonathan Canning, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Programming at the Hyde Collection. All submissions must be made at OnLineJuriedShows.com by April 1, 2019.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative -- NCA will receive \$4500 toward the creation of a new website from the DRI money being allocated to the Arts District of Glens Falls. Advokate will redesign the website so that each member who wants to have a web presence, can have a separate page of their own. NCA's website will be linked to the Arts District of Glens Falls which will be created by Mannix Marketing. This will give the optimum marketing opportunity for NCA members.

President's Message

The year 2019 is off to a wonderful start! The shows at both the Glens Falls City Hall Second Floor Gallery and the Shirt Factory gallery were highly successful. The Upper Hudson River Valley Watercolor Society exhibited at the Second Floor Gallery during January and February. The work was exquisite, showing a variety of techniques and a plethora of subject matter. The current show features Rebecca Zeh. Much of Rebecca's inspiration is local, she has captured the charm of Saratoga in many of her works. Exhibitor applications are now being accepted for 2020. Exhibiting at the Second Floor Gallery is a great opportunity for artists who have a body of work to show. Works can range in subject matter as well as media. It is not necessary for all works to be based on one theme.

The number of shows that are scheduled for our Shirt Factory Gallery gives members and non-members the opportunity to display their work on a regular basis. NCA is the only art organization in the North Country that gives members such opportunities. The Sweetheart Deal was truly a success. Many sales were made. Artists can now hang more than the two works or five display items per show. With the minimal additional fee of \$5 per piece, artists are now given the opportunity to show more of their work. Since this experimental rule was such a great success, NCA will continue the same for future exhibits. The next members show "Elements", will take place during the months of March and April. Drop off for this exhibit is March 9 after the completion of the Youth Visions Exhibit.

The Ninth Annual Youth Visions exhibit is on display at the Shirt factory from February 16 through March 9. We wholeheartedly thank the art educators who participate in the show. Without their help and tutelage, the exhibit would not exist.

The deadline for "Expressions", our annual juried show, is April 1. Please go to the onlinejuriedshows.com to submit your work. This year's juror is Jonathan Canning, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Programing at the Hyde Museum. We are very excited that he has agreed to judge our show.

We are still accepting applications for the Artist Studio Tour. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit individual galleries, meet the artists, explore their studios and purchase artwork. Because of the tremendous success of last year's tour, we have extended the event to two two-day weekends. The first weekend event will take place in the Glens Falls area and the second weekend event will take place in Northern Warren County.

I am once again encouraging you to participate in gallery sitting. When slots are unfilled, the gallery will remain closed. Putting your work on the gallery walls without visitor access is not productive.

Sincerely yours,
Judith Aratoli Tully,
President, The Board of Trustees

NCA's Fine Arts Show Winners



North Country Arts is pleased to announce artists who took awards at the recent Fine Arts exhibit at the Crandall Public Library: Bernice Mennis for her oil painting, "Hogg Island, Maine," Paul Chapman for his acrylic painting, "Destruction," and Christopher Grahame for "Flower Blossom Mandala," a graphic print. Congratulations to all three and thank you to all of the very talented artists who entered the show. The

awards were made possible through the generous support of Price Chopper.



Above: Bernice Mennis, Paul Chapman, Judith Tully (juror) and Christopher Grahame

NCA's Second Floor Gallery Spring 2019 Exhibits

BY DENNIS WILSON -

Spring, 2019 brings with it two exhibitions to NorthCountryARTS City Hall Gallery. We hope all NCA members can drop by to enjoy viewing them. The schedule is as follows:

2019 WINTER 2ND FLOOR GALLERY SCHEDULE	DATES OF DISPLAY	RECEPTION
Bonnie Tompkins	4/1 - 5/10	4/5 5-7 p.m.
Chip Perone	5/13 - 6/21	5/17 5-7 p.m.

A current resident of Glens Falls, Bonnie Tompkins is an Albany native who studied at the San Francisco Art Institute. For many years thereafter she worked with a concert promoter creating the artwork for various concert posters.

Bonnie describes her artistic process as being "random." She starts with a line or simple mark of some sort and then engages the artistic journey to see where the mark takes her. Often it takes her to places and images she had not expected. The pieces she will exhibit this spring reflect the loneliness and grief she felt at the recent passing of her mother. Although muted, darker colors dominate her work, one notices bits of bright and energetic line as well.



A photographer with 35 years experience, Chip Perone was a Theatre Arts student in college. In

2008, however, his photography was awarded a First Place award in an art show in New Rochelle, NY. Since then, Chip's work has won awards in LARAC shows, the Shirt Factory's Juried Photo show, and the Buck Moon Arts Festival.



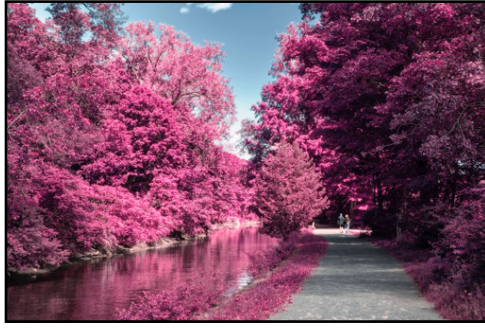
Chip uses digital photography as a creative tool to reflect the reality of his mind's eye based on the reality of the photo's subject. Thus, the photo becomes not simply a

reflection of reality but a story suggestion to stimulate the imagination of the viewer.

I believe that digital image editing can take a good photo and make it better. For me, photography should capture the world as it surrounds me via nature, landscapes or people. I use digital photography to stretch my creativity and enhance what I see within my mind's eye. I hope to tell a story within each photo. Each story is presented in a very broad scope; therefore, allowing the viewer to use their imagination to fill in the details."

As you view Chip's photography, try to imagine a story suggested by each piece.

This page: All artwork by Bonnie Tompkins



At left and above:
Photography by Chip
Perone

Ninth Annual Youth Visions Exhibit

North Country Arts 9th Annual Youth Visions Juried High School Art Exhibit opened February 16 and ran through March 9 at our Shirt Factory Gallery. The exhibit showcased the works of 68 talented young artists from seven school districts. The awards reception took place March 2. Jurors for this year's show were NCA Board members, Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien and Jon Segan.

Out of 82 pieces showcased, five were selected to receive awards. The award recipients received a \$50 monetary award and a one-year honorary NCA membership. The students who received the awards were:

Excellence in Mixed Media: **Kayla Cirigliano** of Schroon Lake for "Endless Space".

Excellence in Photography: **Haley Fuelleman** of Glens Falls for "Faces in Different Places"

Excellence in Drawing: **Jae Harrington** of South Glens Falls for "She Draws"

Excellence in Jewelry: **Rebecca Jeager** of Lake George for "Orchid Interpretation"

Excellence in Painting: **Mirissa Schmeelke** of Lake George for "Blank"

We would like to express our gratitude to all those NCA members who kindly gave their time and energy to make this program a success. Art is a journey worth making and NCA sincerely hopes by sponsoring an exhibit such as this, we are encouraging high school students to continue to create art.

Fiber Arts Show at Crandall Public Library's Upper Gallery

Kaleidoscope in Fiber will display the works of talented fiber artists at Crandall's Upper Gallery March 2-27. Works are by NCA members Kris Gregson Moss, Carol Law Conklin and Charlene Leary. Come view this lively and colorful show!

Notes From the Gallery Committee:

Artists sitting at the gallery can now bring in more pieces of their work to display during their sitting time. Any items sold will be charged the same gallery fee as those entered into the show. These would not be part of the wall display, but would allow artists to display more works without being charged an extra fee.

Artists may now enter additional pieces for \$5/each for shows. This is possible by discretion of the committee and as space permits.

Display Opportunity in Downtown Glens Falls

Work Smart, 3 Warren Street, is a shared workspace located in downtown Glens Falls that is interested in having NCA members display their work at their organization. NCA will not take part in the collection or hanging of work, and any collection of fees or sales made will be handled through Work Smart.

NCA Board Members

Officers

Judith Tully: President, Gallery Committee and Youth Visions Program Coordinator

JoAnn Johnson: Vice Pres. and Marketing Committee

Diane Dumouchel: Treasurer, Website Reviewer, Visions Program

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

Others

Nancy Austin - Newsletter Coordinator and Designer, Marketing Committee

Phil Casabona - Gallery Committee, Juried Art Show

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

Bev Saunders - Labels and Programs

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

Sheri Snedeker: Gallery Committee

Dolores Thomson - Chair, Marketing Committee

Dr. Jacqueline Touba: Marketing Committee, Grant Writer, GFArtsDistrict Rep, Juried Art Show

Non-Board Volunteers

Robin Brewer: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Russell Hillard: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Fred Holman: Associate Member, Studio Tour Coordinator

Emily Latterell: Membership Chairperson

Susan Rivers - Marketing Committee

Jim Tubbs: Gallery Committee

Adelaide Walsh-Leibold: Gallery Committee

Dennis Wilson: 2nd Floor Gallery Exhibit Writer

Stewart's Shops

2019 North Country Arts Schedule

Elements

NCA Gallery, #114, The Shirt Factory

March 16 - April 27

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

Expressions 2019 Juried Show

May 1 - May 25

Reception: May 4, 5-7 p.m., Shirt Factory Gallery #120

Entry Deadline: April 1

Metamorphosis

NCA Gallery, #114, The Shirt Factory

May 4 - June 15

Reception: May 4, 5-7 p.m.

Light & Color Everywhere

NCA Gallery, #114, The Shirt Factory

June 22 - August 3

Reception: June 22, 5-7 p.m.

NCA Photography Exhibit

Friends Gallery, Crandall Public Library

July 1 - July 27

Reception: July 1, 5-7 p.m.

Artists Open Studio Tour:

Lower Warren County: Aug 3 - Aug 4 (Shirt Factory & GF)

Upper Warren County: Aug 10 - Aug 11 (Lake George & North)



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Glens Falls, NY



Expressions
Juried Art
Show



Deadline -

April 1 - You still have time to
enter the 2019 NCA

Expressions Juried Art Show at
The Shirt Factory. This juried
show accepts all medium of art
- photography, pottery,
printmaking, digital art, as well
as watercolor, oils, and acrylic
works. Check
onlinejuriedshows.com for
more details.