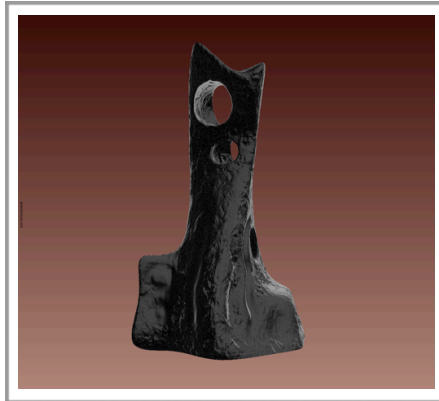


The Arts NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2020



Above: Rock Art Sketch (left), Message From Earth #1 (Right)

Jack Montoya - Featured Artist

Robots, Ants, Chalk and Clay

It was about 20 years ago, when I was working on a couple of research projects on computer vision; one dealing with pattern recognition, mainly edge-detection on images; the second problem involved obstacle avoidance in virtual 3D space. At the same time, I was teaching a grad course with heavy use of computer graphics.

When programming the algorithms, I had no major technical concerns about solving the problem. When teaching that course, I had no doubt my students would do well. I found myself paying attention to my student's reaction to the graphical displays during class, and when programming my computer vision algorithms, I was imagining what the system would "see".

I went to great lengths programming a rather unnecessary application with a human-viewable display of what my artificial autonomous ants were doing in virtual 3D space. After finishing the program and seeing the "real time" view of what my artificial ants were facing, it was clear that I was investing my energy analyzing shapes, forms, volumes and

people's reactions to them; as much as in the computational algorithms.

The message from this story was that deep into the woods of the technical complexities of my academic work, the artistic curiosity was lurking.

I was sculpting on and off for years, with the line in the sand to keep sculpture as a manual activity separated from technology. After years with this approach I started experimenting with the integration of technology into art projects. From dusting off some of my solid-state motor controller circuits to operate moving color plates, to programming an interface with a depth sensor for 3D scanning, I found my background in technology was helping me propel my artistic interests. After some successful stories sending my work to galleries, and with the invaluable help of support of gallery curators and art enthusiasts, I was determined to keep working on my art on a regular basis.

Preserving the soul of the artwork and the "hand of the artist" has been a priority, which involve a time consuming process of integrating technology while



Study for the Magic Pond, (figure 5) retaining the human element. One of my strongest influences is the graphic language of the artifacts from the ancient Americas. Being in close contact with archaeological sites since early childhood, this cultural memory comes into play for introducing the human element into a technology assisted art or craft activity.

I always find a visual element in ancient rock art or pottery that brings humanity and soul to a modern made object.

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Exploring the idea of process and technology, I wanted to present three cases: sketch to digital sculpture, plaster to 3D print and a more traditional scenario.

Sketch to digital sculpture

I was sketching ancient rock art, and experimenting with 3D projections of those shapes. This started the series “Message from Earth,” in which I use my drawings to build 3D shapes in a workflow of 3D software tools. The first example is illustrated in figures 1 and 2, in which we have my initial sketches from the pictographs and the rendered digital sculpture. I started giving volume to the 3 totem-shaped forms using rudimentary shading, then I digitally sculpted the first totem. I refined and finished the 3D printed version,



Message from Earth #3, rendered 3D model

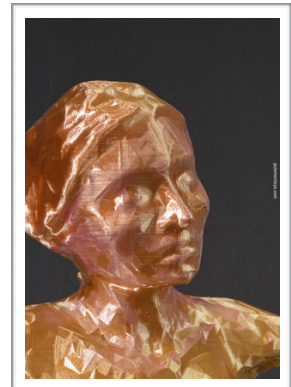
having the great fortune that this piece was chosen by a curator of a world-class museum to enter an art show in New York city. Despite the fact that I didn't think much about digital sculpture, this surprising success encouraged me to keep this series going and we can see the example of Message from Earth #3.



Study for the Magic Pond, (figure 4)

Plaster to 3D print

Preparing for a series evoking tales of mystical ponds filled with gold or silver, I did some sketches on paper and modeled directly a plaster study (Figure 4). Using this study as a reference, I created “Legend of the Silver Pond” (Figure 5), sculpting manually in plastic, as I wanted a lightweight wall sculpture to preserve the overhead point of view. This sculpture depicted a moment of spiritual elevation with the figure suspended in the magical silver-filled pond, referring to some South American tales. Revisiting this idea, I decided to 3D-scan my plaster study, and refine it with the 3D software. There are tools for making faces and figures digitally, however, for this application I prefer to sculpt by hand in plaster, and then 3D scan the sculpture. The “low-poly” 3D print acts as a digital study for this project (Figure 6). When comparing the plaster and hand-formed plastic with the 3D print, the usual qualities of the hand-made object become apparent.



Digital study for the Magic Pond, printed 3D scan from plaster sculpture (figure 6)

My favorite things

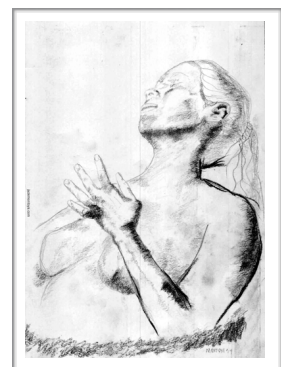
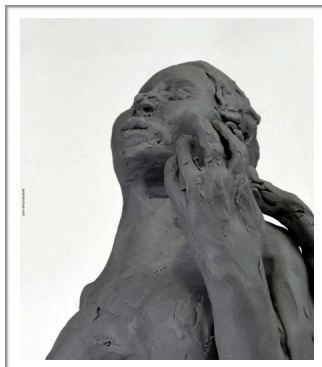
After looking at some of the ancient Valdivia figurines, I started a study of the ritual bather, using a vantage point from below. One of my sketches is in Figure 7. From these drawings I did a clay study (Figures 8-9), trying to capture the view of the bather in ritualistic pose, from below the water level. This creates an interesting situation, because if this sculpture is on a pedestal, is likely to be observed from eye-level or above (Figure 9), even when the creation point of view is below the base of the piece (Figure 8). This problem won't be as evident in a virtual 3D space, and to me it showcases one of the advantages of the traditional process.

From these three cases I conclude that while I feel comfortable with the aforementioned technologies, drawing on paper and hand-sculpting are still two of my favorite things. Don't be sad my virtual robot ants, I'll always remember you.

Left: Clay study for the Night Waters, oil and wax-based study (figure 8)

Middle: Clay study for the Night Waters, oil and wax-based study (figure 9)

Right: Study for the Night Waters, chalk on paper



Exhibitions, The Pandemic, and Going Virtual With a New Website

by. Dr. Jacqueline Touba

As you know, our spring exhibitions had to be postponed or cancelled due to the coronavirus. As a consequence we needed to provide our artists with a way of promoting their work. As many other organizations are doing, we put our exhibitions on our Facebook page and we are hoping to soon have them all up on our new website. We were planning to revamp our website so we applied for a grant to the Downtown Renewal initiative (DRI) and we were approved more than a year ago. While we still have not received the funds, we hope we shall sometime in the future. We decided that we can not wait any longer and must finish the new website being built by Advocate. This website will be linked to the Glens Falls Arts District website that is being developed by Mannix Marketing, thus giving us a much wider audience. We also hope to be linked to other websites like the Glens Falls Collaborative, the Lake George Chamber of Commerce and Warren County Tourism, and more.

The new NCA website will have many photos, our exhibitions, membership forms, gallery information, calendar of events and mini-websites for our web members. Anyone who wants to upgrade their membership to a web membership can do so. You can check out what information will be on the mini-websites by visiting the ones already there. We hope the site will be launched by the time you receive this newsletter.

At this point we hope to still have events in the fall but it could change and we still shall be doing them virtually if we cannot do them at the galleries, or at the library. We might be able to have the shows but not receptions for awhile. Let's hope things will improve before too long but in the meantime stay well, be healthy and stay creative. Be sure to check out the new website at northcountryarts.org.

Expressions 2020

It was difficult to postpone the May exhibition but necessary. It is now scheduled for November at the Shirt Factory Gallery. If we are able to hold the show, we may not have a reception but it will be open regular hours Wed-Sat, 12 to 5pm for visitors. We hope that you all will visit the gallery and of course visit the art on the new website before visiting in person. Since it was postponed for six months, the juror chose the award winners which were announced on Facebook. They are as follows:

Gold — Susan Hoffer for "Just Vote - But Not Against Your Own Interests," Oil

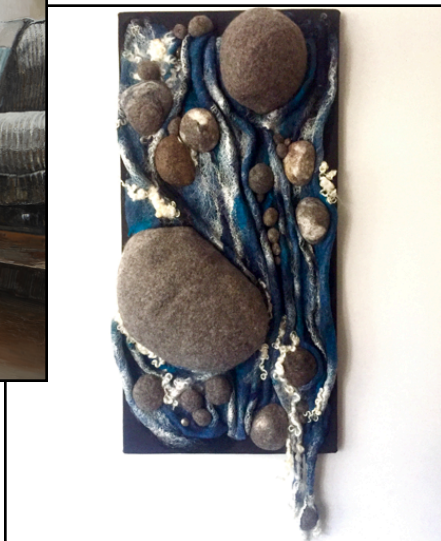
Silver — Joy Muller McCoola for "Spring Run Off," Fiber Art

Bronze — Kimberly Ruggeri-Ross for "Isolation or Contemplation," Photography

Honorable Mention — Phyllis Brown for "Lost in the Woods," Mixed Media



Just Vote, But Not Against Your Own Interests,
Susan Hoffer, Oil



Spring Run Off, Joy Muller McCoola, Fiber Art

Isolation or Contemplation,
Kimberly Ruggeri-Ross,
Photography



Lost in the Woods, Phyllis Brown, Mixed Media

President’s Message

Dear NCA Members,
On behalf of the North Country Board of Trustees, I want to assure you that you have not been forgotten. The Board is continuing to work on your behalf by obtaining grants and having virtual exhibits. In addition, our gala has been postponed to April of 2022. Hopefully, by that time the disruption created by Covid 19 will be a distant memory.

This pandemic is very difficult for all of us. Along with promoting your talent, protecting your health and wellbeing are very important to us. Actual exhibits at the Shirt Factory, the Second Floor Gallery and at the Friends Gallery are presently on hold. That doesn’t mean however that your artwork cannot be viewed. At this point, our exhibits will be virtual. More information will follow giving you directions as to how you can submit your work. Please check your email for notifications.

Until then, stay safe. Best wishes,

Respectfully,
Judith Aratoli Tully

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Photography Show

Due to the coronavirus, Crandall Public Library will not be available for NCA to have its annual Photography Show there in July. So, we will be having a Virtual Photography Show on our website and our Facebook page.

There will be no fee and no restrictions on size. You can submit one photograph per person in .jpg format.

The following information should be included: **Last Name, First Name_title_medium_size_price.**

Send directly to NCA board member Phil Casabona at phil.casabona@gmail.com by June 28, 2020.

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Call For Artists: Breaking The Grid: An Online Community Art Show and Fundraiser for Saratoga Arts!
Viewable online at saratoga-arts.org June 14 - September 5. Submit your artwork today at saratoga-arts.org under "show your work". It is just \$5 to submit up to 3 pieces to the show!

This year for Saratoga Arts' annual summer community art show we're "breaking the grid" by lifting the 10"x10" size requirement. Because the show will be presented in an online format, without the limits of our gallery walls, we don't need all of the artwork to be the same size. Whether you are just starting to get your artwork out into the world or whether you have been showing your work for years, everyone is invited to submit work with no jury process! We will be accepting and adding artwork to the show on a rolling basis throughout the summer. Watch the show grow! If you have any questions about this show or submission process, contact Becky Zeh, Exhibitions Coordinator at zeh@saratoga-art.org.

NCA's Second Floor Gallery Summer 2020 Exhibits

BY DENNIS WILSON -

Spring 2020 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:

2020 SPRING 2ND FLOOR GALLERY SCHEDULE	DATES OF DISPLAY	RECEPTION
Sandra L. Jabaut	show canceled	
Jacquiline S. Touba	8/3 - 9/11	8/7 5-7 p.m.



As of the press deadline, City Hall Gallery is closed due to the virus mandate, but NorthCountryArts will not be denied an exhibition! Plans are being made to conduct the two summer exhibits virtually. Please see our website, northcountryarts.org for more information. A graduate of Southern Illinois University and Vermont's Castleton State University, Sandra L. Jabaut is NCA's first artist to be exhibited this summer. Sandra



taught Art in the Queensbury school system from 1981-2014, retired, and then embarked on a life of traveling, painting, and exhibiting. She has sold her art internationally and has won many awards including the Juror's Award for her painting "Vortex to the Unknown" at our 2017 NCA-sponsored "Last

Call: A Collective Oratorio." Also in 2017, she won the NCA People's Choice Award for "Rooftops: Great Camp Sagamore."

Sandra's painting is evolving from the traditional to the spiritual. Her traditional work reflects the influences of nature, architecture, portraiture and animals. However, she is entitling her more recent work "Divine Inspiration" because



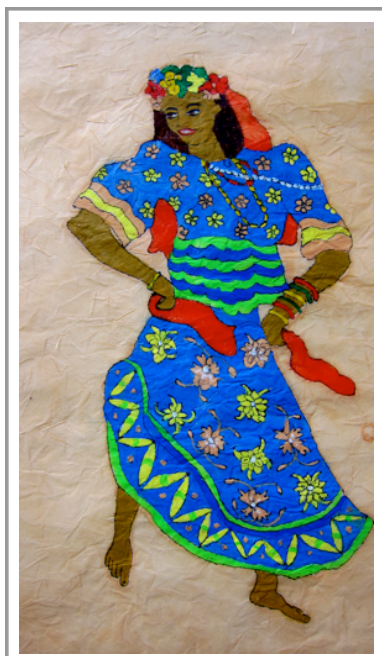
Sandra Jabaut artworks: Top left: Sassy Horses - Opposites; Right: Lake George, Wiawaka; Bottom Left: Wiawaka Boat House Looking East; Next Page: South African Through A Window

it has become whimsical, surrealistic and divinely inspired, a statement of deep spiritual belief. One such piece, “Divine Inspiration: Spiritus” depicts Rome’s Coliseum with a spirit of inspiration and hope rising from the ancient dust.

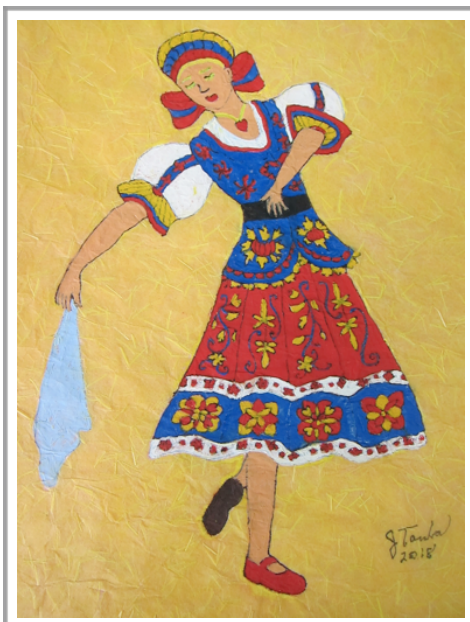
In a further artistic development, Sandra has become inspired by the theme of healing through art. Out of that came a desire to absorb and reflect the energies around her. This desire eventually coalesced into a figure Sandra calls Mother, a “hovering large God-like being” introduced in a playful, child state of mind. In her paintings, Sandra has created her own world, her own town, her own home.



Sociologist, artist, museum director, Jacqueline S. Touba was the North Country Arts President from 2014-2019, Founder and Executive Director of Glens Falls’ World Awareness Children’s Museum, 1995-2013, and Director of the International Arts and Culture Association of Glens Falls, 1985-1995. Jackie’s interest in art developed along with her profession as a sociologist which took her around the world, including teaching in Iran during the 1970’s. Locations that interested her became pen and ink drawings. This international interest also led to a love of folk dancers and other worldwide folk traditions which she has turned into five coloring books using her pen and ink drawings of colorfully costumed dancers. Unique too is her drawing/painting style and materials. She uses watercolor batik with vibrant watercolors applied on Japanese genwashi paper, a type of paper made from hemp. This paper is both durable and lightweight; one side is fibrous and the other side is smooth, a perfect combination for watercolor batik. Jackie’s future artistic plans include publishing coloring books depicting her drawings/paintings of birds in myths and legends. More of her work may be seen on her mini-website available on NCA’s website northcountryarts.org, as well as the images below:



Brazil’s Carimbo dancer



Russian folk dancer



Fancy dancer, pow-wow regalia

Member News

Tiina Bockrath took 1st place with "The Larch Wood in Winter," (right) at View, The Center for Arts and Culture, Old Forge. The show ran through March 28.



Jan Palmer

Jan will be part of the American National Exhibition of Watercolors in Old Forge in August with her painting "Steampunk," a portrait of Dave Francis in costume. She will also have her own show of watercolors and pastels in the adjoining Vandervort Gallery.

NCA Board Members

Officers

Judith Aratoli Tully: President, Gallery Committee and Youth Visions Program Coordinator, 50th Anniversary Gala Committee Chairperson

Phil Casabona: Vice Pres. and Gallery Committee, Juried Show Expressions

Maria Clara Castano: Treasurer, 2nd Floor Gallery Chair

Ann Nelson, New Board Member, Secretary

Others

Nancy Austin - Newsletter Coordinator and Designer, Marketing Committee

Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien: Gallery Committee

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

Lee Shippey: Labels and Programs

Sheri Snedeker: Gallery Committee, Mailings

Dolores Thomson - Chair, Marketing Committee

Dr. Jacqueline Toubia: Marketing Committee, Grant Writer, GFArtsDistrict Rep, Juried Art Show Expressions Coordinator

Adelaide Walsh-Leibold: Gallery Committee

Non-Board Volunteers

Catherine Benincasa: Marketing Committee

Robin Brewer: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Russell Hillard: 2nd Floor Gallery Assistant

Fred Holman: Associate Member

Emily Latterell: Membership Chairperson

JoAnn Johnson - Marketing Committee

Jennifer Switzer - Bookkeeper

Jim Tubbs: Gallery Committee

Dennis Wilson: 2nd Floor Gallery Exhibit Writer

Stewart's Shops

2020 North Country Arts Schedule

subject to change due to pandemic

What's Old is New

Show continues until August 8

The Artist's Perspective

canceled

The Summer Show

NCA Gallery, #114, The Shirt Factory

Drop Off: Saturday, August 8, 1-5 p.m.

Show Dates: August 15 - Sept. 26

Reception: canceled

Pick up: 9/26, 1-5 p.m.

Expressions Juried Show (onlinejuriedshows.com)

Shirt Factory Gallery, Suite 120

Show Dates: October 21 - November 28

Reception: To be announced

The Fall Show

NCA Gallery #114, The Shirt Factory

Drop Off: Sept. 26, 1-5 p.m.

Show Dates: October 3 - November 14

Reception: October 3

Pick up: November 14

"Holding it All" Event - September 26 at Charles R. Wood Theater, 7 p.m.

Poetry set to music and art celebration of the works of poet Bernice Mennis

December 1-31 - Art Exhibition at Crandall Public Library, Friends Gallery

Reception - December 10, 5-7 p.m. at Crandall Public Library



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TO:



Thanks to everyone who participated in our **Youth Visions Art Exhibit**, February 15 - March 14, 2020. We'd like to thank everyone who participated.

Awards were:

- Excellence In Mixed Media: "Polluted Beauty" by Alexandra Ehmann.
- Excellence In Drawing: "10/24" by Henry Gelber.
- Excellence In Painting: "Bee-Nign Opposites" by Tori Lobdell.
- Excellence In Pottery: "Ramen Time" by Tiernan Mase.

- Excellence In Jewelry: "Suess Suess" by Poe Tutu.
- Excellence In Photography: "Peace & Security" by Aliyah Whitman.

We'd also like to thank all the other students who's amazing work was a part of this great exhibition. Your creativity and passion is a huge inspiration to other budding artists.