

In the Morin Gallery  
at The Arts Center In Orange

# Gardens and Landscapes of Virginia

A mixed media exhibit juried by Catherine Hillis



July 12 - August 28, 2010

Sponsored by The Dolley Madison Garden Club

# The Arts Center In Orange

The Arts Center In Orange is a non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1997 by a group of dedicated artists and community members gathered around a kitchen table, planning, pledging their time, and filling the table's fish bowl center piece with funds sufficient to apply for a non-profit licence.

The mission of The Arts Center In Orange is to increase the quality of life in our community by promoting an appreciation for fine contemporary arts in diverse styles and ideologies. This is done by providing: a forum to promote artistic excellence, scholarship and education; a venue for artists and artisans to work, teach, exhibit and sell work; and a place for the community to learn skills, and to participate in and enjoy the arts.

The Arts Center hosts gallery exhibits ranging from works by school children to artists of international acclaim, and offers art instruction for youth and adults.

The Arts Center In Orange is located at 129 East Main Street in Orange, Virginia. The Arts Center's gallery and Virginia Artists gallery shop are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Arts Center In Orange is closed on major holidays. The gallery and all exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information: [www.artscenterorange.org](http://www.artscenterorange.org) or phone 540.672.7311.

**Cover Art by Chee Kludt Ricketts**

**Autumn's Zinnias, watercolor, 24 x 20, \$550**

## Juror: Catherine Hillis

Catherine Hillis has painted all her life, winning numerous awards and honors at competitive shows regionally and nationally for her watercolors of busy street scenes, intricate florals, and historic sites near her home on the Blue Ridge in northern Virginia. The hallmarks of her work are rich color and a touch of humor. She has been privileged to paint across the United States and around the world. Her work is represented by the **Wide River Gallery** in Colonial Beach, Virginia, **Pennello Gallery** in Cleveland, Ohio, and at her studio #1006 at the **Workhouse Arts Center** in Lorton, Virginia. She teaches popular watercolor classes throughout the region. Her paintings have been purchased by collectors as far away as Russia and Japan. During the summer of 2007, she painted in Dinan, France, having been awarded a grant and status as resident artist by *Les Amis de la Grande Vigne*, officially, *Pensionnaire de la Maison d'Artiste de la Grande Vigne (demeure du peintre Yvonne Jean-Haffen) à Dinan (Côtes d'Armor)*. During June of 2010, she was artist-in-residence at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas. She has earned signature membership in the Southern Watercolor Society, the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, the Potomac Valley Watercolor Society, the Baltimore Watercolor Society, the Virginia Watercolor Society and she is a member of the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society.

You can learn more about Catherine Hillis at: [www.catherinehillis.com](http://www.catherinehillis.com) or view her *Learn How to Paint in Watercolors* videos at [www.monkeysee.com](http://www.monkeysee.com)



Mrs. Hillis' **Round and Round** will be featured in the North Light book **Splash 12, Best of Watercolors**, to be published in May of 2011.

## Todd Brown

Todd Brown received his B.A. in fine arts from Lynchburg College in 1980. From that time on, he has operated a sign business where there has always been a fuzzy distinction between “sign” and “art.” Design has always been a priority, and on many, many of his farm and business signs, hand-painted pictorials have revealed his “art.” In recent years he has turned serious in his pursuit of fine art and opened his Orange studio to the public. He has worked in oil and watercolor, but now enjoys acrylic for its versatility and permanence. His favorite subjects include the railroad, scenes from the town of Orange and historic Williamsburg, and Virginia landscapes. His website is at [www.toddbrownpaintings.com](http://www.toddbrownpaintings.com).



**October Fields**, oil on canvas, 36 x 60, \$1,700

## Barbara M. Collins

Born in 1926 in New York City, Barbara M. Collins attended Scarsdale, New York, public schools, was graduated from Emma Willard School and received her B.A. from Smith College and M.L.S. from Simmons College. While raising her family, she worked as a school librarian in New England and most recently at Grymes Memorial School. A true New Englander, she justified her vacation time by attending painting workshops. Well into her retirement, she still studies, attending workshops up and down the east coast. She is as an active member of the Windmore Foundation Artists in Culpeper, and an Artist Member of the Virginia Watercolor Society. She has exhibited with the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild, at the Arts Center In Orange and at Woodberry Forest School.

*I started painting about ten years before I retired from working as a school librarian. Colors fascinate me so I enjoy using them as I see them in landscape and still life, a realistic view. I have traveled a good deal on painting excursions to England, Italy, Greece and most recently, France.*



**Dorothy and Eleanor Celebrate Spring**, watercolor, 20 x 24, \$400

## Kathleen Craig

Kathleen Craig, who still has a “day job” at JABA (Jefferson Area Board for Aging), received her B.A. from Oberlin College, her M.F.A. in creative writing from Warren Wilson College, and has studied at the Vermont Studio Center, and the New York Studio School. Despite the demands of real life, she has exhibited and won awards at galleries throughout Virginia and has attended residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Vermont Studio Center. You can visit her website at: [www.kcraigart.com](http://www.kcraigart.com).

*I'm sure I share with many artists the desire to communicate the excitement I feel when I find a good scene through my viewfinder. For me the feeling is best translated when heavily abstracted so as to make sense on a flat rectangular plane. My heroes are Giorgio Morandi, Nicolas de Stael, Joan Mitchell, and most recently William Scott.*



**Tree, Field**, oil painting, 11 x 14, \$180

## Cara DiMassimo

Cara DiMassimo's life as an artist began as a young girl when she was "discovered" by a well-known artist, Tim O'Kane, who expanded her art interests through drawing, painting, and art history. She went on to graduate with a bachelor of fine arts degree from James Madison University and to study alternate media at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. With her mother, she opened The Glass Palette in 2004, where she creates her own style of art using fused glass. Her art reflects her background in painting and uses the expressiveness of glass as a vehicle to articulate her visions. Like glass, her work is vibrant, fragile, mysterious, and timeless. Her work can be seen at The Glass Palette in Charlottesville, or at: [www.theglasspalette.net](http://www.theglasspalette.net)



**Blue Ridge**, fused glass panel, 8 x 12, \$180

## Diana Fackenthal

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College with degrees in mathematics and music, Diana Fackenthal's art training began with photography in San Francisco at a time when the west coast school of photography was exemplified by Ansel Adams. She learned to make black-and-white prints using a view camera as well as a 35mm SLR. Further experience included documenting anthropological studies of the Native American Umatilla tribe in Oregon, and a "then-and-now" study in Chartres, France, interpreting historic view-camera scenes from the same vantage point as photos taken early in the 19th century, which earned a place for her portfolio at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. After spending years dedicated to black-and-white photography and pen-and-ink sketching, she retired from her job as database administrator at S.W.I.F.T., happily turned to color, and was immediately drawn to watercolor. After a few courses at The Arts Center In Orange, she devoted herself to the medium, attending programs from La Romita in Umbria to the Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. She currently enjoys creating watercolor landscapes at the Firnew Farm Artists Circle and participates in the Charlottesville-Ablemarle Art Association and the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild.

*I very much enjoy painting watercolor landscapes and in each picture I hope to express my love for the beauty of nature. Watercolor is an elusive medium and the challenge it presents is exciting.*



**A Host of Daffodils**, watercolor, 16 x 20, \$300

## Susan Garnett

Susan Garnett is an art teacher in the Orange County Public Schools. The Rousseauesque tile murals in the lobby and cafeteria at Orange Elementary School are projects she produced with students early in her teaching career. At Locust Grove Middle School, the art of her students is displayed before you get through the inner door, and in every hallway throughout the building.

*I watched a documentary on the visual artist and trumpeter Herb Alpert. He was repeatedly hitting a large clay sculpture with a metal tool in order to add surface to the form. Immediately I felt the results of his effort were "contrived." He stepped back from the form and began to rub out the marks. He commented about not wanting to appear "contrived."*

*Confident in my assessment, I began to think about how art described as "contrived" is bad. Why is that? Isn't all art "contrived"? Planned? Forced? Designed? If I attempt to remove the element of "contrivance" from the work, isn't that really being "contrived"? There is no such thing as art that has not been tinkered with, changed, planned and designed. With computers and digital cameras, artists plan and design more than ever. I've decided those efforts should not be disguised. I want to see the intentions, the manipulations, the process, all the stuff that we use to make art.*

*As a middle school art teacher, I require students to use certain elements of art and specific media in their work. "Contrived" could easily describe most of their work and some of this student art is really good. I guess I just like the "stuff of art." I choose now to let it show.*



**Poppies in the Morning**, mixed media on canvas, 16 x 40 diptych, \$520

## Jeanne Grimsby

Transplanted New Yorker Jeanne Grimsby attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in the early 1960s. Not wanting to become a printmaker, industrial designer, advertising designer, or art teacher (the only curriculum choices after the first year), she left school to become a wife and mother. She moved to Rapidan with her family in 1975, and continued to study realist drawing and painting on her own. She returned to school full time while simultaneously working full-time as a technical writer, and also serving on the board of directors at Four County Players in Barboursville. She earned her bachelor's degree and a master's degree in studio art from James Madison University. She has recently retired and is looking forward to having more time for art.

*I normally concentrate on portraits and occasionally also do pet portraits. Most of my work is personal and hangs in my own home and in the homes of family members. There is always something new to learn, so the opportunity to do these small landscapes for the Arts Center has been an enjoyable challenge. It's true that you don't know what you don't know, and it is fun to make the list of things you don't know a little bit shorter.*

*The Twilight paintings are views from the overlooks on Afton Mountain in November. The sun was setting, throwing the land forms into shadow and brushing the tops of the bare trees with golden light.*



**Twilight I**, oil on board, 12 x 16, \$560

## Jane Hicks

After graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology (NYC) in 1971, Jane Hicks designed ladies' loungewear for a living. She produced her first quilt for a baby shower in the 1970s. After a class at the John C. Campbell Folk School in 2003, she began designing crib-sized art quilts. Since then, she has become a juried member of the Artisans Center of Virginia. You can see more of her work at: [www.hicksart.com](http://www.hicksart.com).

*I believe rainbow-colored batiks really come alive with black or deep blue for contrast, and I add movement to my designs with curved lines and flowing freemotion stitching. Sometimes I modify a traditional design with a new twist in color, and at other times I use the rainbow colors just to "make a picture." I hope all who view my quilts enjoy my ideas and are drawn into my world of color.*



**Growing a Rainbow**, art quilt, 48½ x 42½, \$300

## Anne de Latour Hopper

Anne de Latour Hopper was born in Brittany, France. Her study of bookbinding and gold stamping in Paris at the Decorative Arts School lead her to New York City where she worked in restoration of rare books. It was at the Art Students League in NYC that she discovered watercolors, and in Buffalo, New York, that she was introduced to oils and the art of classic realism by John Yerger. Upon moving to Virginia, she continued her study at Charlottesville's McGuffey Arts Center, and has attended oil and pastel workshops in the U.S. and Europe. Her oil and pastel paintings are in private collections around the world, and at the Martha Jefferson Hospital Facility and the Cancer Center at the University of Virginia. You can see her and more of her work at Violets Etc. on Ivy Road in Charlottesville and at: [www.terrougestudio.com](http://www.terrougestudio.com)



**Irises**, oil on canvas, 5 x 7, \$285

## Lou Messa

Lou Messa studied art at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Soon after graduating, he was drafted, and became a US Army illustrator. After the army, he worked as a government illustrator. In the late 1960s he retired from civil service and moved to Madison, Virginia. Since then, he has worked to support his family by creating and marketing art that people want to buy, and in the process he has won national recognition. You can see more of Lou Messa's work at: [www.loumessa.com](http://www.loumessa.com).

*I paint what people would like to see hanging in their homes. I like painting machinery, vintage aircraft, old cars and motorcycles. Sometimes in a landscape I'll incorporate an old tractor or hay rake in a field. These all add to the composition of the focal point. I've learned that these are paintings people can relate to or will bring back nice memories.*



**Rock Ridge**, acrylic on paper, 9½ x 21, \$800

## Lee J. Nixon

Lee J. Nixon is an artist who teaches. If you attended Orange County High School chances are good that Lee Nixon was your art teacher. He works primarily in acrylics for their versatility and compatibility with other media. His impressionist paintings reflect a need, care and reverence for a serene earth, and the desire to share it with the viewer through color, pattern and texture. His paintings have appeared in numerous galleries, including the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, and The Arts Center in Orange.



**Peony Trilogy**, acrylic on canvas, 26 x 34, \$800

## Maria Pace

Maria Pace grew up on a farm in Unionville, where she learned to love plants and animals from a young age. Under the tutelage of professional watercolorist Carolyn Emerson, she began painting at the age of nine and continued studying watercolors with Emerson for over a decade. She holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in creative writing from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. A small-town girl with an addiction to travel, she has lived and painted across the United States and around the world. She has taught at the Trinity Arts Workshop in Dublin, and is a popular teacher at The Arts Center In Orange. The studies she is exhibiting are part of a journal depicting bits of Virginia's landscape.

*I most enjoy walking and collecting a pocketful of things from nature to paint on a white page, in one sitting, and in natural light. I try to compose a painting with a feel similar to that of a botanical print, but far less technical. Rather than illustrate one species, roots and all, in every form and seasonal phase, I want to share what small beauties can be found in a certain place on a certain day. The paintings I've submitted represent treasures I collected from my mother's garden in Unionville, Virginia on May 29, 2010.*



**Saint John's Wort, Coreopsis and Wild Poppy, watercolor, 11 x 14, NFS**

## Michelle M. Powell

Michelle M. Powell is a professional artist skilled in drawing, watercolor, acrylics and oil paints. She specializes in portraits (animal and human) and landscapes. She has a B.F.A. in painting and drawing, and an M.Ed. in art education. An award-winning artist who exhibits nationally, she has been a guest lecturer and teacher for art groups, schools and civic organizations, and has traveled with groups of students on art and history tours of Russia, Italy, France, Ireland and Greece. She currently teaches art at a private school, and has a studio in Madison County. You can see more of her work at: [www.artistpowell.com](http://www.artistpowell.com).

*Since I was little, I have been drawing, painting and loving the visual world. Art has been the focus of my life, broadening my horizons and expressing love for creation. I currently teach full time both children and adults as well as pursue my own work. I have found that helping others to see the world in a new and different way has sharpened my own innocent perception and strengthened my desire to express the unseen essence within.*



**Farm Market Lilies**, oil on panel, 24 x 48, \$2,350

## Chee Kludt Ricketts

Award-winning artist and educator Chee Kludt Ricketts has studied the arts and arts education for most of her life (Agnes Scott College, the College of William and Mary, La Salle University, Hampton University, Christopher Newport University, Old Dominion University, Thomas Nelson Community College). She has taught all ages from three to 83, concluding her teaching career at Hampton Roads Academy, where she was instrumental in developing the Academy's fine arts program. Retirement from full-time teaching has afforded her the opportunity to pursue painting on a continuous basis. She works daily in her studio, situated in the basement of her recently renovated 1832 farmhouse. You can visit her website: [www.cheekludtricketts.com](http://www.cheekludtricketts.com).

*My interest in flowers as subjects arises from a life of gardening with my mother and grandmother. Saturated hues and intensified value contrasts allow me to capture the incandescent light of day and ephemeral transition of seasons. Although a personal synthesis, my paintings evoke an immutable, radiant world that invites and ignites a restoration of soul.*



**Double Dutch**, watercolor, 30 x 36, \$1,200

## Nancy Wallace

When she moved to Virginia in 1996, Nancy Wallace embraced the state's beautiful landscape as her primary subject. Weather permitting, she paints *en plein air*, seeking to capture not just the visual elements in a scene—the trees, mountains, roads, and rivers—but also the light and even the sounds and smells. Her paintings are exhibited at galleries in Virginia and North Carolina, and can be found in business and private collections all over the United States. She received her B.S. degree in art education from Case Western Reserve University and a master's in art education from the University of Illinois. She is a member of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association and an associate member of the Oil Painters of America. You can see more of her work at: [www.nancygallery.com](http://www.nancygallery.com).

*Every painting is a new challenge. It's an ongoing experiment to find out how to use value, shape, line color, and rhythm to express an idea.*



**Rest Stop at UVA**, oil on linen, 9 x 12, \$750

Notes:

This arts event is brought to you through the support of:

**The Dolley Madison  
Garden Club**

and



The Town and County of Orange and people like you.