

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Offers Works by Studio 12 Artists

Sunset River Marketplace, the eclectic art gallery in Calabash, NC, is presenting *Red Times Twelve*, a collection that explores the significance of the color red in art, on view through Oct. 4, 2014.

The color red, from rudimentary cave drawings in prehistoric times to Henri Matisse's bold, unnatural manipulation of color in his 1911 masterpiece, *The Red Room*, to Warhol's pop art, has played a major role in art, as it does in life. For this exhibition, the artists of Studio 12 each wield the power of red uniquely and distinctively.

Participating in the show are members of Studio 12, an art group that meets weekly at Sunset River Marketplace. It includes gallery owner Ginny Lassiter (acrylic); Studio 12 founder Jill Hope (acrylic); Sandra Petit (acrylic); Bryan Krpejs (watercolor, acrylic); Katherine Duckworth (acrylic); Donn McCrary (acrylic); Marsha Thomas (decoupage, mixed media); Pat Reynolds (acrylic); Ellen Flynn (watercolor); Carole Barth (mixed media, watercolor); Sally Nolan (oil); and Sue Ruopp (acrylic).

Donn McCrary's *Lady In Red* features a sassy bold splash of a red dress. The viewer will feel the jaunty young woman's joie de vivre. In Marsha Thomas' uniquely constructed *Scales Rule*, a very different red dress depicts a heaviness that conveys the artist's own often painful transformations – both physical and emotional – in her life. *Swells* by Bryan Krpejs features three sailboats racing through white caps and rough seas. The artist's sparing use of red on the hull helps him express both the excitement of the race and the humbling vastness of the ocean.

Studio12 is a diverse group of artists with differing goals, backgrounds, styles and tastes. What they have in common is a sense of artistic adventure and a love of creativity.

Jill Hope founded the group in 2004. She wanted to be part of a close knit group of artists who would paint together, share art experiences, critique each other's work and provide emotional support to each other on a personal level as well. Since then, artists have left Studio 12 and others have come to take their place, but the group still meets every Tuesday at Sunset River Marketplace to paint and explore new concepts together.



Work by Ginny Lassiter

Working in acrylic or watercolor, Hope's style encompasses mainly non-representational art. She says, "My art today comes from what I call the intuitive side of thought. My pieces reverberate with hidden meaning as the soul of the painting is allowed to emerge."

Most Tuesdays a visitor will find all 12 artists happily ensconced at tables in the classroom at the back of Sunset River Marketplace. Lassiter says, "I value my time with this group. And I love that we never know who will be working on what. It's a nurturing environment that encourages exploration and creativity. It just feels right to me."

Hope's style encompasses abstract and nonrepresentational art and her medium of choice is mixed water media. She attended the NE Essex School of Art in Essex, England. Hope is a member and past



Work by Donn McCrary

president of Waterway Art Association. Born in Rochester, NY, Hope has lived in England, Denmark and Australia. She relocated in 1991 from Ocracoke Island to Calabash.

The Ocean Isle Beach resident and native of Wilson, NC, Ginny Lassiter has always been a creative soul. She's a potter, she paints, she sketches, and she designs fabrics. Lassiter graduated from East Carolina University with a major in art and an emphasis in interior design and whenever she has the chance, she loves helping clients with their design needs. Lassiter is also the owner of Sunset River Marketplace art gallery in Calabash. Currently Lassiter works most often in acrylics and is really taken with the abstract process.

"It is both freeing and challenging at the same time," Lassiter says. "Abstract instructors Sterling Edwards and Joe DiGiulio have created a huge excitement in me and I cannot wait to get to my studio as often as possible. I love painting abstracts! Without a definite plan I let the colors lead me as they develop."

A graduate of the Fine Arts program at the University of NC -Wilmington and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Sandra Petit has also studied at the Walter Vincent Smith Museum of Art in Springfield, MA, and the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, FL. The Gloucester, MA, native works in watercolors, mixed media and acrylics and has also won awards for her photography.

A native of Maryland, Bryan Krpejs grew up along the eastern seaboard and has had a lifelong love for all things nautical. He studied watercolor and acrylic painting at Maryland Institute College of Art. His primary subjects are nautical themes and architectural landscapes. His awards include a Second Place in the Silver Coast Winery Viognier label competition as well as numerous local merit awards, honorable mentions and purchase awards. Krpejs' painting, *Heavy Day*, was featured on the cover of the June issue of *WLM Magazine* (now *Cape Fear Living Magazine*).

Katherine Duckworth has been painting since the third grade, when she received her first John Nagy charcoal drawing set. She discovered that art was her passion and began modeling for an artist's figure drawing class in trade for lessons and art supplies. Duckworth received her BA in Fine Arts from Roanoke College, VA, and her certification in Secondary Art Education from Roanoke College in 1975. In the past she showed her work at the Southern Vermont Art Center. After visiting Sunset Beach for 37 summers, she moved permanently to Sunset Beach.

Donn McCrary, a Charlotte, NC, native enjoyed a successful career in architecture before he turned his creative talents and energy to painting and sculpting. Traveling throughout Europe, Asia, South Africa and the US have given him vast resources from which to draw. He says, "Everyday life for me is a fulfillment of a dream living on the shore. Seagulls and marshlands surround and inspire me." McCrary has studied with Sterling Edwards, I.G.

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