

Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC, Offers Work by Virginia Pendergrass

Virginia Pendergrass is still 'seeing the world, one drawing at a time.' An exhibit from Apr. 1 to May 31, 2017, at Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC, will feature new watercolor and ink sketches inspired by her travels in Japan, St. Martin, France, and Quebec, as well as destinations in the US.

After 3 years experimentation with watercolor and ink sketches, Pendergrass considers them essential in her travel. "Drawing for my watercolor sketches helps me to truly pay attention to my surroundings - to note delightful details of architecture or behavior of people in public places. In Asheville, I enjoyed seeing firemen on a break from chores; in Japan, a geisha making tea; sunbathers in St. Martin watching parasails on the beach; and a Savannah street busker, to mention a few," says Pendergrass.

Major influences on Pendergrass' watercolor and ink techniques are Mark Taro Homes, a Canadian illustrator, and Charles Reid, a master American watercolorist. She says, "Holmes has an efficient method of creating an appealing ink drawing with which even the so-so sketcher can succeed. He begins with what he calls a 'pencil scribble.' This merely means drawing lines lightly one on top of the other until he is satisfied he understands the shapes. Then he puts ink on the lines which work best, and erases the pencil."

"Charles Reid also makes life easy for the so-so watercolorist. His watercolors are famous for uncorrected blobs, blooms, drips, and spontaneous drifting and mixing of colors at edges. He advises students to



Work by Virginia Pendergrass

never correct 'mistakes.' As the watercolor drifts, blends and dries, it will often produce wonderful fluid effects a painter could never achieve by trying."

Pendergrass, who paints landscape and still life oils as well as watercolors, lives in Brevard, NC. Her oil paintings can be seen in Art Works in Brevard and Silver Fox Gallery in Hendersonville, NC. She teaches oil painting classes at her Trackside studio.

Trackside Studios is located on Depot Street in Asheville's River Arts District.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the Studios at 828/545-2904 or visit (www.tracksidestudios375.com).

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Molly Courcelle and Jessica Hall

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present *Molly Courcelle + Jessica Hall*, on view in the FW Gallery, from Apr. 1 - 29, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 5-7pm.

Asheville artist Molly Courcelle grew up surrounded by art - her mother, artist Bee Sieburg, encouraged her from an early age to view the world with an artist's eye. They spent time drawing and painting outdoors noticing colors, forms, and compositions found in nature. They also loved to visit art galleries and museums where Courcelle gained a love of art history at an early age. She attended Wake Forest University, receiving Bachelor of Arts with a focus in painting. Upon graduating she became involved in floral design while living in Cambridge, MA, and Providence, RI.



Work by Jessica Hall

After moving to Asheville in 1997, Courcelle and her mother opened The Gardener's Cottage, a floral and antiques shop in Asheville's Biltmore Village. They sold the business in 2004 upon the arrival of her first son, William. She has since had another son, Andrew, born in 2006. The family welcomed Martha Grace into the family by way of adoption in August of 2014.

When describing her work, Courcelle says, "I am fascinated by the shape, pattern, and movement that I see in nature. That is where I find my visual inspiration: the contour of a leaf, the color of a petal, the softness of a shadow, the line of a stem. Yet this is just where the painting begins. Shapes and composition are formed, lines and colors are added and taken away. The process is spontaneous and just as much reactionary. The result



Work by Molly Courcelle

is a painting that is layered and painterly, generally abstract yet essentially organic."

Courcelle's Christian faith plays an important role in the artwork and many of her titles have Biblical references. "Bringing my faith into the work gives purpose and excitement to the act of painting. While my visual vocabulary is directly linked to nature, the subject of my work is mainly scriptural. Not only do my pieces become about what the Lord is teaching me but they can communicate something meaningful and personal to the viewer. I just love that!"

Jessica Hall has been experimenting with jewelry for 30 plus years. First starting out at a young age working in beading and stringing, then about 13 years ago working with a torch and learning more advanced techniques. After completing a Jewelry Technician Course in San Francisco in 2010 she opened her own studio and thus was the beginning of Bluebird Designs.

Her love of enamel and the colors it produced fascinated Hall and led to the now diverse line of whimsical and happy pieces that fill the "Bluebird" line. With a new lost wax casting set-up in her studio in the River Arts District she is working towards the launch of a new high-end line, Plume Fine Jewelry, consisting of gemstones, gold, enamel, and sterling silver. You will see some of those first pieces at the Woolworth gallery exhibit this April as well as some of her classic yet unique pieces from Bluebird Design.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or call the gallery at 828/254-9234.

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TERRY JARRARD-DIMOND: My Thoughts on Juried Exhibitions

"...juried competitions are one of the major avenues for artists to get their work shown and in front of an audience beyond their immediate area. I myself found them to be the best avenue to present my work as I began to show work a few years ago. As I thought about the concept of juried shows, I began to consider how I go about selecting which shows to enter..."

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Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC, Offers Work by Younger Generation

Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC, will present *Generation Why*, featuring works by four young artists, on view from Apr. 1 - 30, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 4-7pm.

Artists Tessa Lang, Marcos Martinez, Chalkley Matlack, and Noelle Miller each approach art through different subject matter and media. All four bring youthful energy, optimism, and connection to our world to their creations.

Tessa Lang paints with oil, in bright colors on large canvases. Her pieces reflect oceans, mountains, abstract fields, and more recently a series of octopi using alcohol inks and oil. She teaches tennis when she's not at her easel. Marcos Martinez often creates surrealistic scenes which he displays along with poetry and findings from nature. He also likes to take his easel outside and paint en plein air.

Chalkley Matlack calls his art "media fusion," as he uses oil, acrylic, colored pencil, graphite, found objects, minerals, watercolor and more to create paintings and sculptures. Noelle Miller recently moved to Asheville from Colorado. She creates flows of acrylic on mylar, then adds fine lines to create mystical pieces.



Work by Tessa Lang

Each artist brings the exuberance, hope, complexity, and connectivity of the Millennial generation to their art while maintaining their unique styles. As young artists, they are finding their own paths as well as influencing the direction of the other artists at Trackside Studios. We look forward to introducing you to these emerging artists!

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William H. Miller Gallery in Myrtle Beach, SC, Features Works by Jackie Stacharowski

The William H. Miller Gallery in Myrtle Beach, SC, will present *Body Language*, featuring works by Jackie Stacharowski, from Apr. 5 - 12, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 6-8pm. Stacharowski will present a talk about her work at the Gallery on Apr. 8, beginning at 2pm.

This show will feature over 20 of

Stacharowski's original paintings that explore both the inner-personal and inter-personal relationships we all experience. She uses color and symbolic imagery to capture emotions that are not usually given visual representation.

Stacharowski offers the following artist statement, "I fell in love with the Grand

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