

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Cultural
ARTS
CENTER
- GLEN ALLEN -

ART LOCALLY

CELEBRATING LOCAL ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS
MURALIST NICO CATHCART, THE SUPER SUGAR BEATS, AND MORE!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THOSE IN OUR LOCAL ART COMMUNITY
MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.ARTSGLENALLEN.COM

Dear Friends,

The staff at The Cultural Arts Center continues to seek ways to bring the arts into your lives during the pandemic. We are working with Henrico County to create outdoor Sunday Fundays for families in October and will host a great concert on October 25 featuring the awesome Super Sugar Beats! What better way to chase the Pandemic Blues than with the upbeat sound of bubblegum music from the '60s and '70s? And on November 6, 7, and 8, the phenomenal Debra Wagoner will be on stage. All seating will be socially distant and masks are required in the theater as well as throughout the building.

Our doors are open with art exhibits on the walls, wonderful wares in the gift shop, classes in progress, and performances coming up in the theater. We have policies in place to protect and comfort you as you enter our buildings. We do require masks... and encourage you to be creative with art-inspired masks. We will get through this together. But it is time to put the arts and their amazing healing powers into action. I hope to see you at The Center as soon as you are comfortable to visit.

And finally, thank you to our wonderful patrons. You have been overly generous in supporting The Center with contributions and by donating your tickets and class registrations from last year back to The Center. We understand this is a difficult time for individuals as well as organizations. Please know that your generosity touches our hearts and bolsters our spirit.

Most Sincerely,

K Alferio

STAFF DIRECTORY

Meet the staff! Looking for more information on renting space for special events or how to become a featured artist in one of our galleries? Or perhaps you'd like to organize an art activity or class for your business or organization? Our team looks forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have.



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The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen offers residents and visitors in the metropolitan Richmond region an unparalleled opportunity to experience the arts, explore new ideas, develop new talents, and experience all the best this community has to offer. Learn more at www.artsglenallen.com.

The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen
2880 Mountain Road | PO Box 1249 | Glen Allen, VA 23060
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The 2020-2021 Season is generously sponsored by:



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starting as low as

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
804-261-ARTS (2787) | WWW.ARTSGLENALLEN.COM

THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

Gifts received July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

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Gifts to The Cultural Arts Center support our amazing Outreach Programs designed to bring art into the lives of those who would otherwise not have these enriching experiences. To give the gift of art, please contact Amy Holland, CFRE, at 804-261-6214 or by email at development@artsglenallen.com.





HOW SWEET IT IS

The Super Sugar Beats return for a groovy outdoor concert Sunday, October 25.





BACK IN THE GROOVE WITH THE SUPER SUGAR BEATS

OUTDOOR CONCERT OCTOBER 25 AT 3PM

Tickets available at 804-261-ARTS

The Cultural Arts Center is very excited to have The Super Sugar Beats at our first outdoor concert of the new season! Can you tell us a bit about The Super Sugar Beats and how the group formed?

Thanks, we're all excited about the show! The Super Sugar Beats came together because of our love for the late 60's-early 70's bubblegum & sunshine pop sounds that most of us grew up around. It was all over the radio & TV, but most bands don't play it. This was the age when many bands were based on TV show families - both live and animated, and a lot of them had sponsorship from major breakfast cereal companies. So, triple-threat: Music, Animation, sugary cereal (complete with in-box prizes!) and sometimes even monsters thrown in! How could we NOT love the stuff? The current band lineup is Craig Evans (from The Taters & the Rock & Roll Jubilee) on bass & lead vocals, Will Jones (from Diamond Heist and the Wayward Bills) on guitar & lead vocals, Kris Krull (from The Atkinsons & Hazelton) on drums & lead vocals, and Gary "Doc" Fralin (from Hazelton, The Bopcats, and many others!) on keyboards. This upcoming show at the Cultural Arts Center will be the first with new guitarist, Harry Gore (from the Hullabalooos, The Power Chords, and too many others to name!). The whole vibe is one of sunny, bright harmonies & colors, and is too much fun to describe!

The Super Sugar Beats. That's one sweet name for a band! What's the story there?

We went through a couple of options on that, but it has echoes of the Saturday Morning cereals & cartoons (Super Sugar Crisp), as well as a little nod to how The Beatles spelled their name to emphasize the dance beats of the music.

How did COVID-19 impact your tour schedule, and how does it feel to return to the stage to perform again?

Like most every other live band, the covid situation really pulled the dance rug out from under our feet. But we've tried to stay safe. We haven't had any live shows since February and only a few rehearsals in a large rehearsal space where there's plenty of room for social distancing. The CACGA has got the thing covered by making this an outdoor show, with plenty of space for both the band and the audience to maintain some distance but still all be part of the same scene!

Can you give us a few teasers? What are some songs you plan to perform on October 25th?

We're still putting the set together, but you can expect songs from The Partridge Family, The Archies, The Brady Bunch (oh yes!), The Ohio Express, The Bay City Rollers, and more. The period we focus on is roughly 1969-1973, but we fudge a little on both ends - there are sometimes Monkees songs from earlier and things like the Rollers from the mid-70s. But they all have the same happy sunshine spirit to them!

Everyone here is very excited to see you rock out on October 25th at The Cultural Arts Center. It will be a fun day and we are encouraging tickets buyers to bring chairs/blankets, and coolers are welcome. Do you have any other tips for the audience? (Is tie-dye and dancing encouraged?)

Absolutely! Our audiences usually love to dance and sing along on most of the songs - they'll know most all of them. I'd be more reluctant to try and STOP them from dancing! It's a trippy time capsule of songs from our early days!



MEET THE STAFF

AMY HOLLAND, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

804-261-6214

development@artsglenallen.com

How long have you worked at The Cultural Arts Center, and what is a typical day like for you?

I came to The Center in January 2019, so a little over a year and a half. My days are never predictable! I spend a lot of time looking at who is attending shows, who's donated, who hasn't, and how can I get that last group to give! I also write grants, appeal letters, email campaigns, work with our sponsors, and try to keep up with everything that's going on at The Center – and that last part isn't easy to do!

What does supporting the arts mean to you?

Support for the arts can mean many different things. Of course, my role here focuses on philanthropic giving as support for the arts, but to me it also means supporting artists – giving artists opportunities to perform, show their work, make a living. But the deepest level of support for the arts is knowing that the arts enrich lives. Without it, life would be less colorful, less joyful. Really understanding how art affects our hearts, minds, and spirits leads people to support the necessity of art in our communities.

What do you enjoy most about working at The Cultural Arts Center?

Well, when I interviewed here, I met several people on the leadership team and I thought, "I have to work with these people!" I love working with such a passionate team. And I also love that almost every day I get to see really high-quality visual art and regularly get to see great performances. Maybe most of all, I get to share office space with our Outreach Coordinator, Cindy Rinker. It's so awesome to see all the great art and hear the inspiring stories coming out of our Outreach programs. Her enthusiasm for this work is contagious and lifts my spirits regularly.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Honestly, it's challenging to meet and get to know our loyal patrons. There are so many great folks who have been supporting The Center for years – attending shows, coming to the galleries, hosting events. But in the rush of a performance night or gallery opening it's hard to track our supporters down in the crowd. So, if you're reading this and you love The Center, look for me next time you're here! I want to get to know what you love about The Center!

What's a common question you get from donors? (And what is the answer?)

"Why does The Center need donations? We buy tickets, pay class tuition, plus Henrico County gives our tax dollars to operations." My answer is: We are a very fortunate arts organization to have earned revenue and County support. BUT, donations to The Center help us keep ticket prices and class tuition affordable for our community, allow us to offer free art experiences to those in our area who couldn't otherwise afford it, and, frankly, with COVID limiting our current offerings, donations help The Center stay strong and viable until we can resume our typical operations.

What are some ways that people can support The Cultural Arts Center during this time?

Obviously, my first answer is make a gift of support to The Center! Additionally, you can use Amazon Smile and list The Center as your charity of choice AND link your Kroger card to The Center. Each time you shop, a small percentage of your purchase will support our work. We have over 10,000 visitors to The Center each year and if only half of them used those avenues it would make a HUGE difference over the year!

Are there any other local causes that are near and dear to your heart?

I'm a big supporter of public media, organizations that provide service and support to victims of domestic violence, and those that provide services for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. I strive to support these causes with both my dollars and my time.

What is one of your favorite memories during your time at The Cultural Arts Center?

Last November when The Capital Steps were performing. It was the first time they'd appeared since I started working here and the energy of the crowds was just amazing!

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

I'm a director/choreographer myself and while I don't have as much time for that these days, I still try to do a gig or so a year. I'm a devoted Ashtanga yoga practitioner and have been to India to study with my guru - and I'm looking forward to the day the world opens back up so that I can return! I'm a mom of two amazing young adult men. I'm an avid knitter, I love to read, and I am ridiculously in love with my two pups, Charlie and Chloe!

Who is your favorite local artist or performer?

This feels like a dangerous question because I'm friends with so many local performers and artists... So I'm going to be polite and say they're ALL my favorites.

What's a fun fact about you many people may not know?

You know the TV show "House of Cards?" Well, my Dad was actually the Congressman from the 5th district of South Carolina in the 70's and 80's. Both of my parents went to high school in Gaffney (Frank Underwood's hometown) and, yes, the Peachoid is real. Also, when I was about 6 years old, I gave my first fundraising pitch at an event for my Dad's campaign.

What advice would you give people before their visit to The Center?

Try to block off plenty of time for a visit! There is SO MUCH happening here! Also... wash your hands and wear a mask!



LEND A HAND!

Earn discounts and rewards as a volunteer! (Ages 15+)

The Cultural Arts Center offers many fun and rewarding ways to get involved and support the arts! Smiling faces will be needed at all of our performances to welcome our guests, scan tickets, and show guests to their seats. Courteous and flexible volunteers are needed to cover the front desk from time to time. During our Gallery Opening Receptions, usually held six times each year, volunteers are also needed to help set up and serve refreshments.

Our volunteers have tremendously enhanced our ability to provide affordable arts education and entertainment to the surrounding community and we are grateful for your willingness to lend a hand! In appreciation of your time and effort, we have created a reward program based on hours of service.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Reward</u>
1	10	10% discount on a class or in the Attack Family Gift Shop
2	19	20% discount on a class or in the Attack Family Gift Shop
3	25	1 comp ticket for a 2nd Stage Performance*
4	35	30% discount on a class or in the Attack Family Gift Shop
5	45	1 comp ticket for a Center Season Performance*
6	50	\$25 gift card

SIGN UP TODAY!

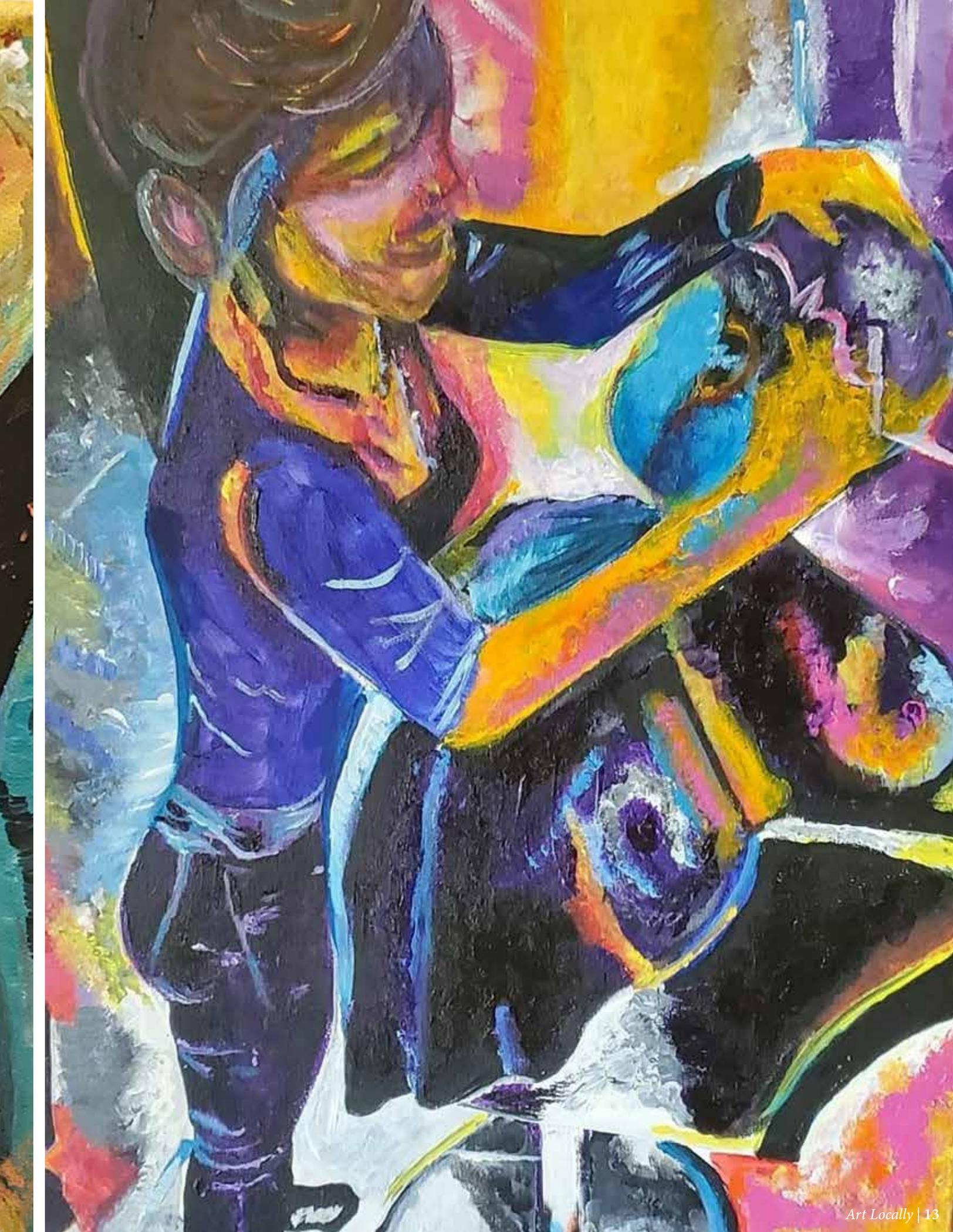
For more information and volunteer opportunities, please call us at 804.261.2787, email us at info@artsglenallen.com, or sign up online at www.artsglenallen.com.



BY LOCAL ARTIST
SYRITA MAJOR

BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

As we celebrate artists local to Henrico County and Central Virginia, we are currently accepting submissions for artist features. For consideration, please email marketing@artsglenallen.com with a brief introductory letter/artist statement and samples of your work. You might just be featured on the cover of our next issue of *Art Locally!*



FREE EVENT!

— FREE OUTDOOR INTERACTIVE FAMILY SHOWS! —



Cultural
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-GLEN ALLEN-



SUNDAY FUNDAYS FOR KIDS

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY AT THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER. JOIN US OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN AT WALKERTON TAVERN! BRING THE KIDS AND A LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET AS WE ALL SOCIAL DISTANCE ON THE LAWN.

SUNDAY, OCT. 4 AT 3PM - Juggling and Magic with Jonathan the Juggler.
Learn how to juggle after the show!

SUNDAY, OCT. 11 AT 3PM - Music and Ventriloquism with Chris Campbell and his
Puppet Friends! Make sock puppets after the show!

SUNDAY, OCT. 18 AT 3PM - Clowning Magic with Applause Unlimited.
Learn some fun magic tricks after the show!

SPONSORED BY HENRICO RECREATION & PARKS AND THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER!

804-261-ARTS (2787) | WWW.ARTSGLENALLEN.COM

THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER | 2880 MOUNTAIN ROAD, GLEN ALLEN VA 23060

MAKE A *joyful* NOISE

**Here's a fun craft to do with the whole family!
Kids love making music and making music-makers!
Create your own instruments and start a family band!**

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Jar lid
- Rubber bands
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Wide popsicle stick
- Washi tape (similar to masking tape)

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Wrap four rubber bands around the width of your jar lid. Try using bands of different width so each makes its own unique sound when plucked.
2. Secure bands in place with a piece of duct tape over all four bands on the back of the lid.
3. With scissors, trim one of the rounded edges of your popsicle stick to make a straight edge.
4. Using patterned and solid washi tape, wrap the popsicle stick to make it colorful and fun.
5. When you're finished decorating, secure the popsicle stick to the back of the jar lid, straight edge down, with another piece of duct tape. Keep the rounded end of the popsicle stick sticking out from the lid. **That's it – you're ready to jam!**

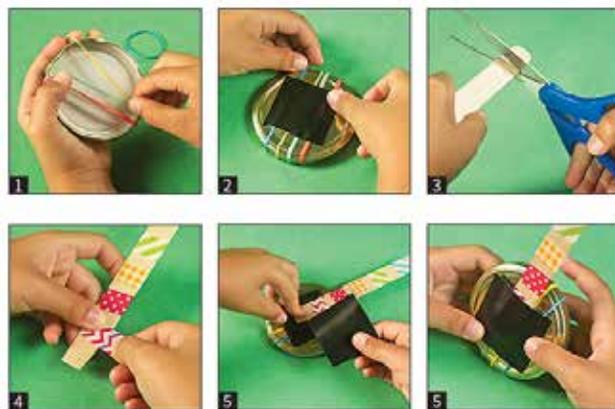
TIP:

You can embellish your banjo to fit your style by adding rhinestones, stickers, glitter glue, and other details to the back of the lid or to the popsicle stick as tuning keys.

LET THE MUSIC PLAY!

We would love to see your finished projects!

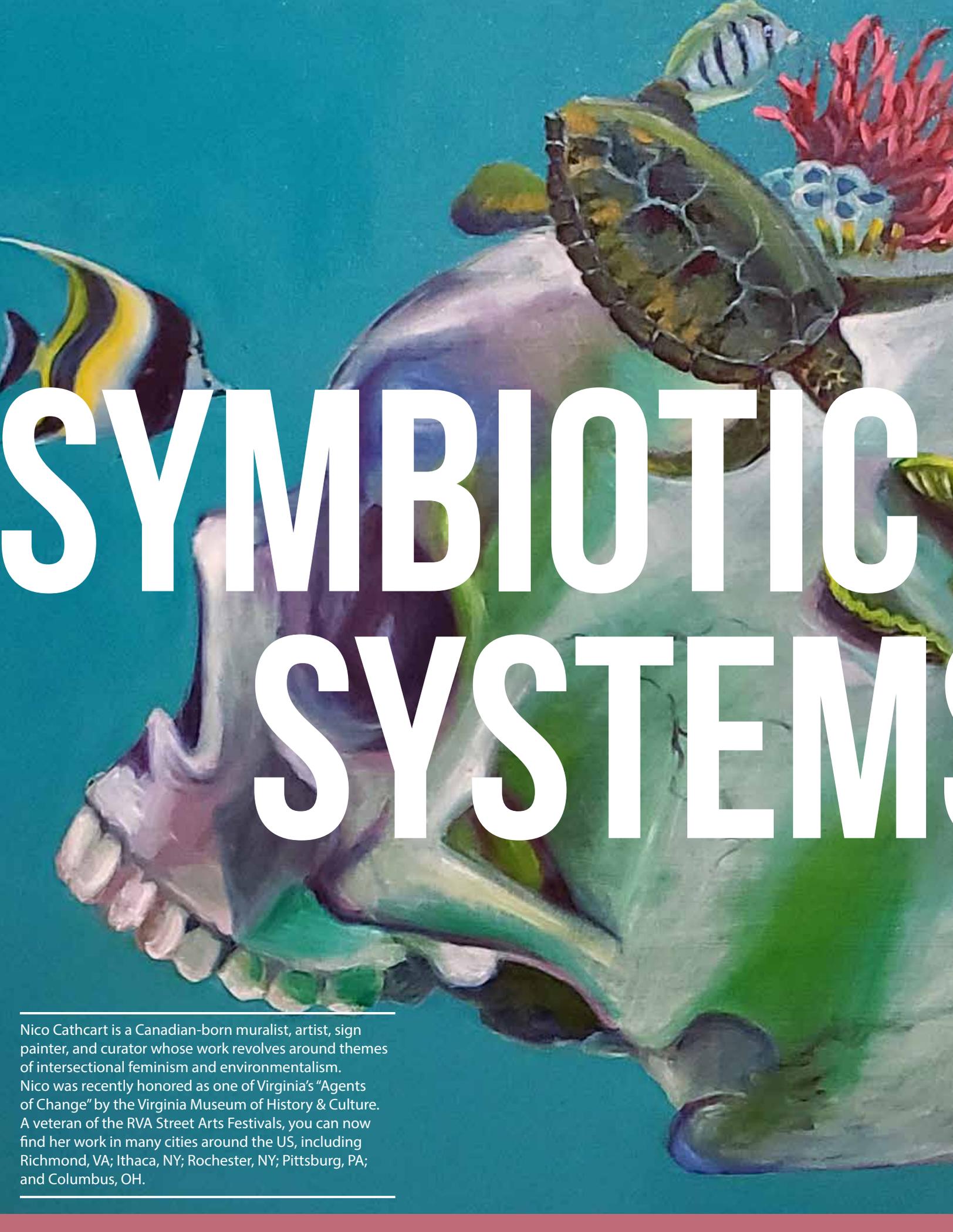
To be featured, please email a photo of your work of art to marketing@artsglenallen.com.



As seen in *Richmond Family Magazine*.



This project was inspired by the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen's exhibit, Red Rooster Guitars, featuring handmade candy tin, license plate, and cigar box guitars by local artist Richard Robinson.



SYMBIOTIC SYSTEMS

Nico Cathcart is a Canadian-born muralist, artist, sign painter, and curator whose work revolves around themes of intersectional feminism and environmentalism. Nico was recently honored as one of Virginia's "Agents of Change" by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. A veteran of the RVA Street Arts Festivals, you can now find her work in many cities around the US, including Richmond, VA; Ithaca, NY; Rochester, NY; Pittsburg, PA; and Columbus, OH.

NICO CATHCART

QA

DID YOU KNOW? The Cultural Arts Center is dedicating our entire 2020-2021 Season to showcasing the outstanding talents of local artists and performers - presenting the best while helping the best recover. We were excited to catch up with local artist and muralist Nico Cathcart to learn more about her journey as an artist. See below for the full interview. Plus, visit her exhibit, "Symbiotic Systems", on display in our Gumenick Family Gallery until November 8, 2020 - Admission is free.

Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been creating art?

I have been a painter my whole life. I grew up in Toronto, Ontario and was forever drawing. When I moved to the US, I lived in a small town called Homer, in New York, where I had an amazing set of art teachers who pointed me to painting. I have a BFA in studio art with a focus on painting and ceramics, completing coursework at SUNY Oswego, and SUNY Cortland. When I finished college I ended up traveling anywhere I could exhibit. One such place was Richmond. I had a first Friday show here, at Mojos of all places, and fell in love with the city. I had a lot of friends in the music scene here and fell absolutely in love with the James River. I moved down here within a year of coming here the first time. After being encouraged by friends to apply for the 2nd Street Art Festivals amateur paint-off, I also found a great love for getting out of the studio and painting murals. Which is a completely different type of painting. I feel like I got a second art education in the streets while working for more established painters in the city, which really changed my perspective.

A big part of who I am is also my deafness. I am in the process of going deaf. I have about 30% of my natural hearing left. This is something that has taught me a lot about what a person is capable of when faced with adversity. Constantly learning to adapt has been a struggle, but ultimately, I think it made me more driven.

What (or who) inspires you?

I am inspired by strong women leaders who know how to take charge. Being a painter, I spend 90% of my work time alone. Which allows me to listen to a bunch of books. Recently I have been really into Angela Davis, and Alice Walker. I also take inspiration from the women painters who blazed a trail for me like Frida Khalo, Georgia O'Keefe, Jenny Saville, Natalia Fabia, Amy Sherald, Louise Bourgeois, Julie Mehretu and Matokie Slaughter. I am also always blown away by the work of contemporary muralist Onur, who has a dedication to creating in situ maquettes to paint from which I admire greatly.

How did you find the medium that best worked for you? What was that process of discovery like?

I've always been a big sucker for oil paint. I am absolutely a technically minded painter. I like knowing the ins and outs of each medium. While most of the work in this show is pure traditional oil paint, with a little gamesol mixed in, I have used other paints where it made sense. They all have great uses. Latex is great for large applications, and can be thinned out and used quickly, the two largest pieces in this show are latex. In learning about murals, I started getting a bit of an education in Sign Painting, which led to the discovery of One Shot, which is one of my favorite mediums. It's more graphic, bright, solid. I have used one shot in a bunch of ways in this show. I am constantly learning more about my craft, which is part of the fun of it for me, the exploration.

What were some of your early influences to pursue the arts? Did you always want to be an artist when you were a child?

I have always pursued the arts. There was never a question in my mind about what I wanted to be. When I was really young, it was Van Gogh who really pulled me in, with the wild use of color, and broad brush strokes. I spent hours copying the impressionists in gouache in my bedroom. I think you can still see the lasting impression those early explorations made in my hyper saturated color choices.

When I was in high school, and learning to really draw, I had a book about the Sistine Chapel, and I learned to draw the figure by copying out the figures from the ceiling. When I was a teenager, Juxtapoz magazine came out, and that was mind-blowing. Watching all the superstars from the lowbrow scene blow up, I knew it was the path for me.

Outside of your art—what feeds your imagination and brings you joy?

I don't know that anything is outside your art, as it all feeds into the experiences that can be translated onto canvas or a wall. I enjoy being outside. I love to kayak and bike whenever I can. I love to travel and see new places whenever I can. That recharges me.

In a trip I took just before Covid hit, I learned the absolute joy of diving and snorkeling. Diving on a coral reef is something I will never forget, and cannot wait to do again! One of the biggest moments of joy in my life was diving in Honolua bay nature preserve on Maui, surrounded by coral canyons, and bright tropical fish and turtles, and looking over to see an endangered monk seal swim right past me, a few feet away underwater. There are only estimated to be a thousand of those left in the world. What a thrill.

What creative medium would you love to pursue but haven't yet?

I would love to return to ceramics again. With this show, I have made a bunch of maquettes out of clay to photograph as reference, and it really got my brain kicking into overdrive about the possibilities.

What's your favorite thing you've ever created?

That's a big question! There are a few pieces in this show which I am particularly fond of. I also have some favorite walls, including the vitality float mural, and the Pollinator mural at Createspace. I like some of the perspective work I've done in the last year, like the sunfish mural that changes when you move around it, painted at the Cultural Arts Center.

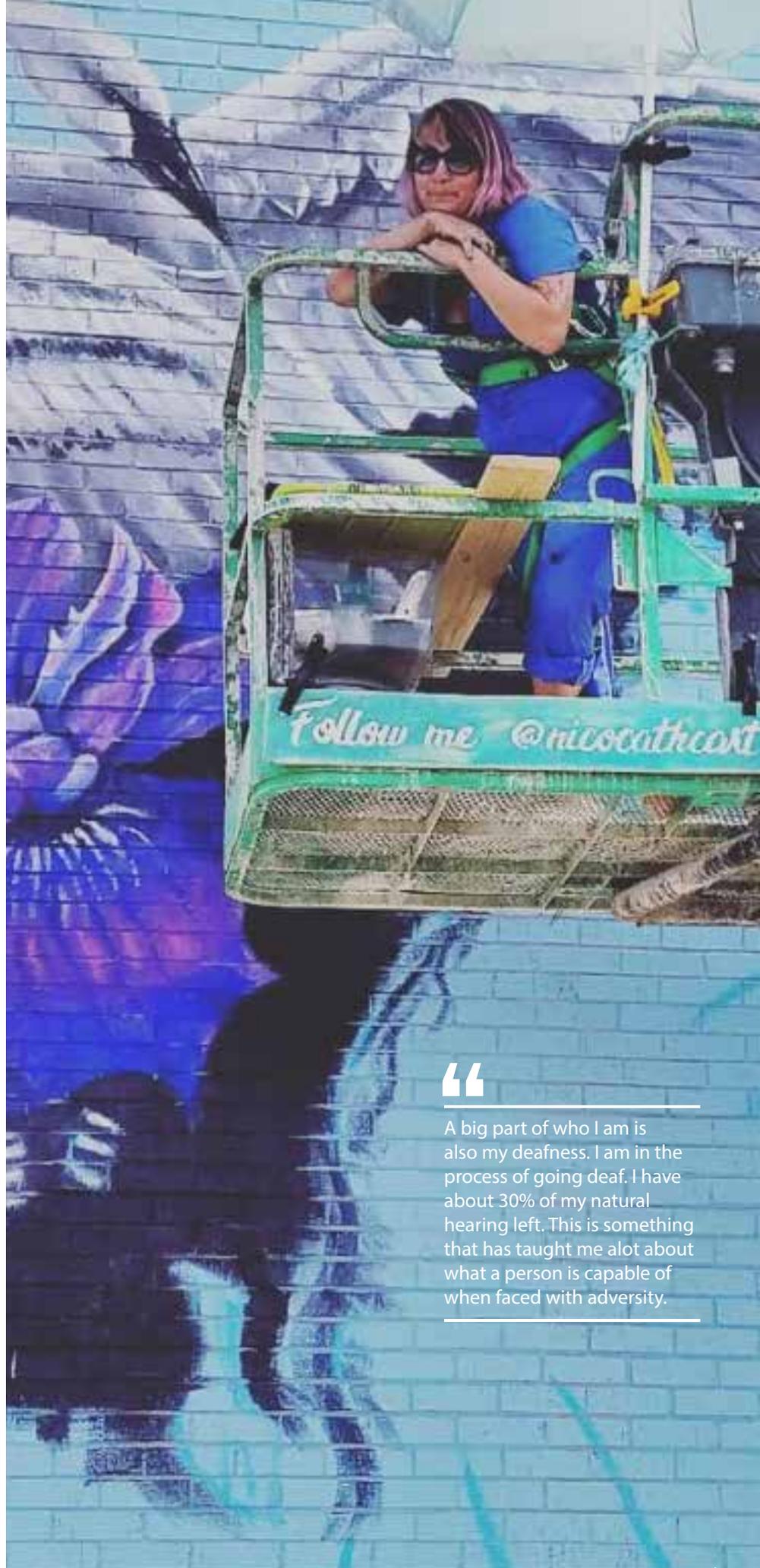
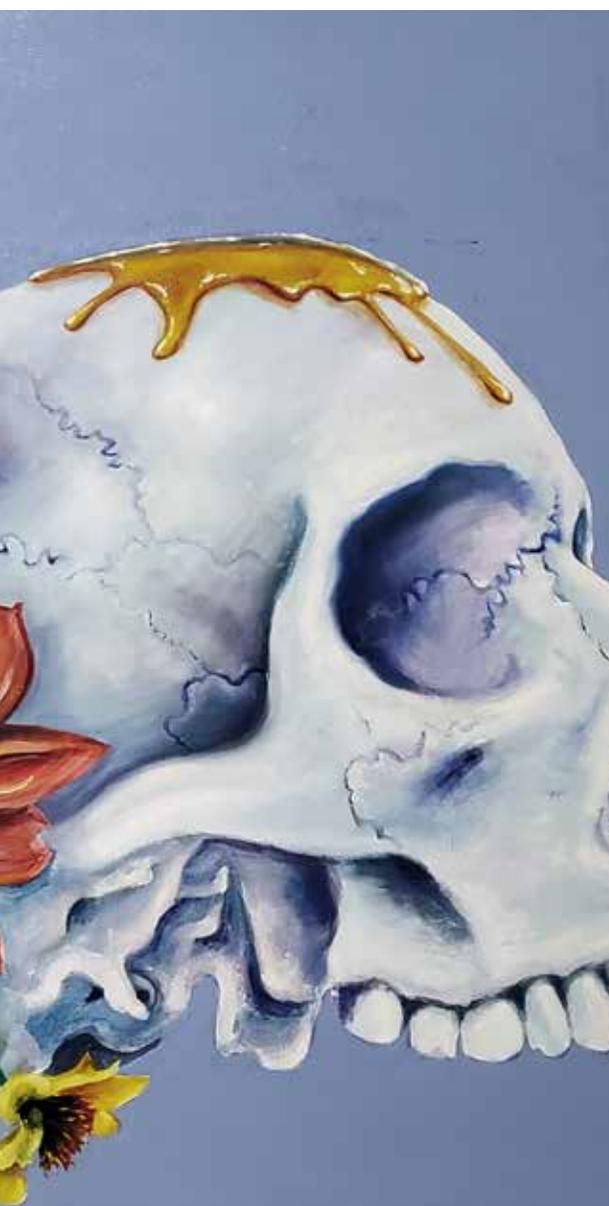
What are you trying to communicate with your art?

This body of work is focused on the environment and the effect that humans have on it. The paintings talk about issues such as: Glacial melt, sudden colony collapse of the bees, endangered butterflies, balloon waste, coral reef bleaching, plastics in the ocean and rivers, and sea level rise. I was inspired by the memento mori/ Vanitas paintings that were popular in the 17th century. I am recontexting the skull as a reminder that humans are in a symbiotic relationship with the earth and we must be aware of how our actions affect our surroundings.

What advice would you give to people looking to explore becoming an artist?

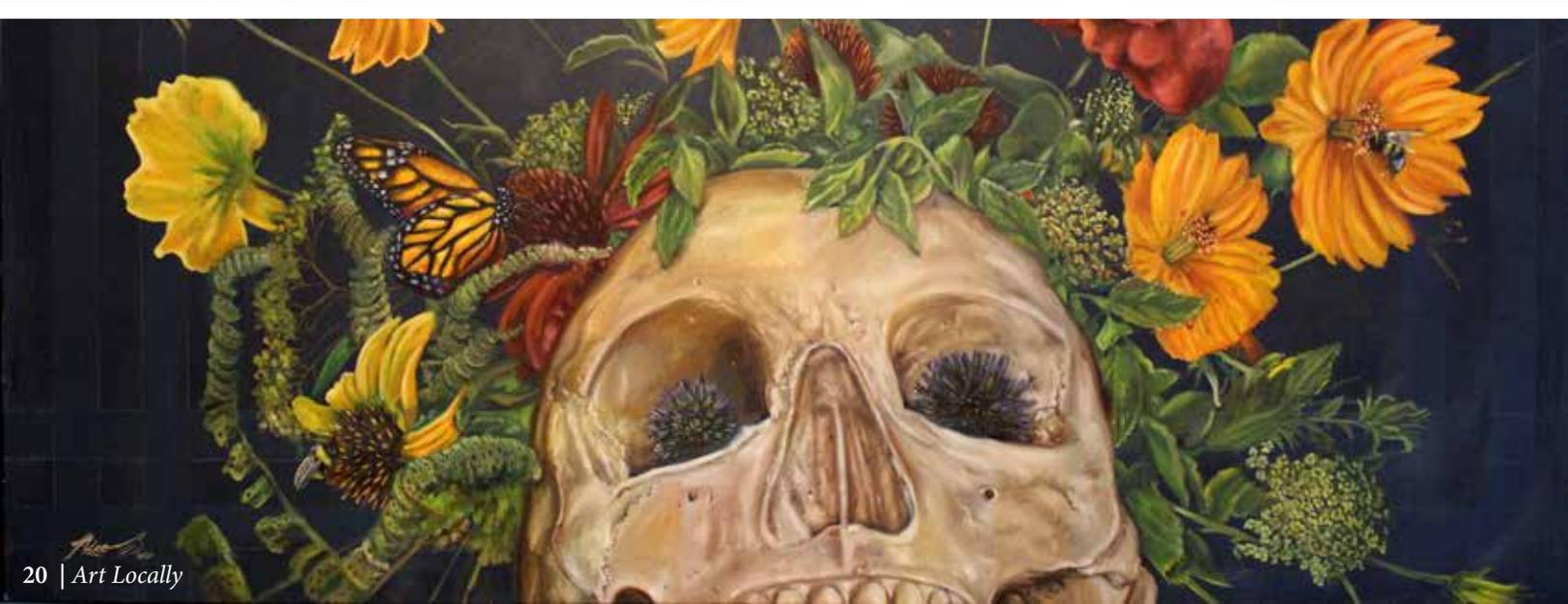
Work! Really. Just create constantly. Keep Learning. Apply to everything you can. Know that you will never feel like "you've made it", there is always rejection, so just keep your head down and work through it!





“

A big part of who I am is also my deafness. I am in the process of going deaf. I have about 30% of my natural hearing left. This is something that has taught me a lot about what a person is capable of when faced with adversity.



SAVE THE WORLD IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS

By: Lauren Hall

The Cultural Arts Center's current Gumenick Gallery exhibition, *Symbiotic Systems*, by Nico Cathcart, explores both the connections between man and nature and how our actions effect the species that live alongside us and the ecosystems they depend on. Her poignant imagery suggests how we have the power to do better for the Earth and its inhabitants.

It is easy to think we cannot make impactful changes, but, as in anything requiring change, baby steps lead to bigger change over time. Here are five simple ways you can change the world with small, but significant actions:

1. PLANT SOMETHING!

On the inspiration for her piece, *Anemone*, Nico wrote: "In the wake of the endangered statuses of the world's pollinators, the most radical thing you can do is garden."

By planting flowers in your yard or creating container gardens, you are helping provide food and safety for pollinators in your yard.

If you lack a green thumb, place a butterfly feeder in your yard. Hanging from a tree or flat on the ground, feeders give butterflies a place to get the nutrients that they need. Check online for great tutorials to DIY a simple feeder or check local home and garden stores if you're not feeling crafty.

2. PARTY IN SUSTAINABLE STYLE

There's no doubt that balloons are festive and fun, especially for a kid's party, but they wreak havoc on the ecosystem. As illustrated in Nico's three works, *Up*, *Down*, and *Around*, she explains: "Balloons are one of the deadliest forms of plastic... As balloons hit the lower pressure of the upper atmosphere, the balloon expands until it pops and falls to Earth. While some may return in a semi-inflated state, many shatters due to low temperature to become a microplastic." Microplastics are often ingested by land and sea creatures leading to plastic death, the number one killer of seabirds and sea turtles.

Since balloons provide only short-term joy before being disposed, consider more sustainable party décor options. Opt for paper lanterns or fabric bunting instead for bright, cheerful party décor that can also be used again for future events.

3. GET A HANDLE ON SHOPPING BAGS

There has been a slow, but steady movement over recent years for stores to move away from single use plastic bags to reusable bags and for great reasons! Plastic bags often end up in waterways with birds and sea creatures becoming entangled in them or mistaking them as food as they 'swim' through the water.

Slow to decompose, plastics have plenty of time to create a nuisance with wildlife and ecosystems. Make the change to fabric bags instead! Just present your reusable bags to the clerk at check out or purchase bags directly from most shops.

4. SAY GOODBYE TO PLASTIC

Single use plastics can last up to 1,000 years in the landfill or wherever they end up – often the sea or other places where animals can be endangered by them. Their staying power in the environment isn't the only danger they cause. Plastic is also said to be toxic to humans. According to scientificamerican.com, "Chemicals added to plastics are absorbed by human bodies. Some of these compounds have been found to alter hormones or have other potential human health effects."

Consider the many ways plastic can be replaced in your day to day life, such as:

- Replace plastic with glass or ceramic storage options to keep your home organized. Whether storing baking ingredients in glass jars in the pantry or cotton balls and q-tips in cute ceramic jars in the bathroom, there are lots of ways you can make your home healthier and eco-friendly in any room.
- Try sustainable options for picnics or when you don't feel like washing the dishes, such as bamboo, which breaks down quickly and won't harm the ecosystem.
- Stay hydrated and healthy by using glass, steel, or ceramic drink containers instead of purchasing one-time beverages in plastic bottles. You'll not only cut down the amount of plastic produced, you'll save money!

5. GO NATURAL

Many animals, such as the Long-Eared Owl, and ecosystems, such as coral reefs, are suffering from the effects of pesticides used in landscaping and gardening. Skip chemical options and work with natural materials instead. It is safer for them AND for you!

There are so many ways we can make a change for the health of ourselves and the world around us. Look around your home and pay attention to the items you use and throw out regularly. What can you replace with cleaner, safer options? As Michael Jackson sang, "If you want to make the world a better place; Take a look at yourself, and then make a change."

We have the power to effect change in the world around us and to prevent the deaths of millions of animals whose lives greatly influence the habitats and ecosystems they live in. Let's work together to make the world a better place!

*Symbiotic Systems is on exhibit now through November 8th
Visit www.artsglenallen.com for more information.*



CHROMATIC ABSTRACTION





KHEILA JONES

Meet the artist behind our Midway Gallery Exhibit, "Chromatic Abstraction" - on display September 16 - November 15 at The Cultural Arts Center.

Kheila Jones aims to create colorful expressions of emotion through various mediums such as acrylics and spray paint. Focusing on the underpainting and using subtractive techniques allows her endless avenues of expression. The joy she gets making these pieces is about process and the theme of transformation.

Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been creating art?

I began my art journey almost eight years ago. I was mentally in a space where I hit a few of life's roadblocks and couldn't seem to get unstuck. The challenges I encountered made me feel like I was losing myself. Until, I found art, or should I say, art found me. I used painting as my therapy and my ultimate pathway to a new outlook on life. Spending extended amounts of time with just me and my paint supplies allowed for some deep internal reflection and growth. I also immersed myself in learning whatever I could find, whether it was books or classes and even managed to get my own art space to create whenever I wanted without interruption. The clarity I was able to get through art was amazing and has transferred to so many different areas of my life. Art has changed my life in ways I could never have imagined.

When I'm not painting or being a French Bulldog mommy, I'm working full time as the Executive Director of Atlantic Outreach Group (AOG), a nonprofit organization that provides resources for vulnerable communities. AOG was the reason I began sharing my artwork with the world. I was able to have the best of both worlds; being able to share what I love and also

donate the proceeds of artwork sold to support programs at AOG. I feel as if my artwork has a deeper meaning now. It has a greater purpose than just myself. I am so grateful to be able to impact the world with my art on multiple levels. Once I made the decision to move forward with sharing my art, I haven't looked back. I have participated in live paintings, silent art auctions, Paint Nite Fundraisers, etc. all with a goal of raising funds to help those in need. I look forward to what the next step on my journey will be and how I can take my art contribution to the next level.

What (or who) inspires you?

There are two things that inspire me, one is resilience and the other is gratitude. The human ability to keep pushing past life's challenges is an amazing strength to possess. Also, being able to take a situation be it positive or negative and finding a lesson to take away from it, is inspiring. I try to surround myself with people that show these traits as it is a constant reminder of what is important to me and keeps me balanced. The last thing that I would say inspires me is meeting people that are students of life, meaning open to growth and education regardless of the source. My thought is that everyone can learn something from anyone and that in itself is inspiring.

How did you find the medium that best worked for you? What was that process of discovery like?

I started out with a trio of mediums... spray paint, watercolor and acrylic paints, but shortly after I was drawn to just acrylic paints. I love the endless opportunities to create textured paintings. I also love that acrylics are so forgiving and to top it off there are so many mediums you can use with acrylics that the possibilities for creation are endless. I love using heavy gloss gel mediums to create a three-dimensional feel with my art. I like art that pops off of the canvas!

What were some of your early influences to pursue the arts? Did you always want to be an artist when you were a child?

I have had a love for creating things since I was a child, but life had a way of getting in the way of what I naturally loved to do and what my surroundings said I must do to fit a certain mold or meet certain expectations. If you had asked me years ago if I would be standing here today sharing my love of art with you and how it changed my life, I probably would have dismissed the idea. It's amazing how things change overnight, but that's just how life works. You never know what blessing are around the corner until you get there.

Outside of your art—what feeds your imagination and brings you joy?

Reading feeds my imagination. Being able to get a different perspective on ideas new and foreign to me are inspiring. I also like to meditate; it allows me to clear my mind of the clutter and free up some space for things that may have otherwise been lost to the hustle and bustle of everyday life. My family brings me joy and my French Bulldogs, Bruno and Charlie. Every now and then a good slice of cake can bring me joy too.

What creative medium would you love to pursue but haven't yet?

I would love to pursue designing clothing. There are times when I look at some of my art and I think "This design would go great on a dress or pants!" I would love to be able to design my own clothes, maybe even venture into accessories such as scarves, belts, or even better... shoes... lol.

What's your favorite thing you've ever created?

I truly struggled with this question. One of my close friends told me I always overthink things and that may be true, because I don't have a definitive answer for this one. Let me explain... lol. There are times where you create something, and it resonates with you. You admire it, you may even give yourself a pat on the back

for a job well done, but then time passes and another creation makes you feel that same feeling. It's complicated for me at least to pinpoint one thing because when I look at my art, I am not always looking at the color palette, the composition, etc. I am remembering the feeling I felt during the creation process. I reflect on what my struggles were, what I enjoyed, how I knew it was time to walk away, or if I did not walk away and felt as if I ruined what I had worked so diligently on. So, with that in mind I will say that I equate the love of my artwork to the love of my children. I love them all, but for different reasons. One piece may have a color palette I love, while another may use a certain technique that makes it stand out or brought out a certain emotion. So if I had to answer, I would say my favorite thing I have created is the internal ability to love each piece for the unlimited interpretations it has to offer anyone that views it and the memories that I get to relive.

What are you trying to communicate with your art?

I am communicating a series of life stories. These stories range widely in subject matter, but the main commonality is the desire to express and share something I feel is beautiful about the story. I know that beauty is subjective and that is not the ultimate goal when I create. I love trying to create chaos and balance at the same time. I create because I can express my story, the story of those around me and do it all in a way that the final interpretation is not up to me. The final interpretation relies on the reader of the story/the viewer of the art. I want to communicate that my art is a reflection of the world and the people we encounter every day.

What advice would you give to people looking to explore becoming an artist?

If you want to pursue art, make a move now. Don't let the fear hold you back, because it's mostly in our heads. We psych our own selves out of achieving our goals through creating stories of what may go wrong. Making a move towards your art doesn't have to be something dramatic like quitting your full-time job, dropping out of school, or dedicating your life to being a starving artist. I mean, just take a baby step towards your dream. Take time to create a space (no matter how small) for yourself to pursue what you love. Carve out time, even if it's thirty minutes a day to invest in your craft. Lastly, don't spend massive amounts of time convincing yourself why it can't happen for you, use that same energy and think of unlimited ways that you can make your dreams happen for yourself.





MARY VIVO

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Creating housculptures allows Mary Vivo to connect with various structures and their surroundings. She uses wood, colored pencil, paper, markers, and paint to shape each piece. Added details and nuances bring each building and scene she creates to life.



ART CHAT WITH MARY VIVO

What is your background as an artist?

I attended The Cooper Union School of Art and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. I

worked as a graphic designer and art director for various publications and design studios. My most recent solo exhibition took place at Diversity Richmond's Iridian gallery. Group shows include Art Works All Media Exhibitions, the 64th Annual Art of Northeast in Canaan, Connecticut and the Nor'Easter 44th Annual Juried Exhibition at the New Britain Museum of Art in Connecticut.

What does your work aim to say?

Creating "Housculptures" helps me connect with different structures and their surroundings and to show their simplicity and, at the same time, their uniqueness. A bus station, once vital but perhaps forgotten, is resurrected.

What were some of your early influences to pursue the arts?

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York I had the advantage of seeing how important a local business was to my family and the people who lived in our neighborhood. Sal's barber shop. Angelo's meat market. Bill's drug store. Saviano's Italian bakery. Since moving to Richmond five years ago I have concentrated on re-capturing the essence and importance of some of its past shops and businesses by re-creating them in detailed miniatures called "Housculptures".

How did you find the medium that best worked for you? What was that process of discovery like?

I use a lot of different mediums namely colored pencil, graphite, acrylics and paper but I am always drawn mostly to the creation of my housculptures, perhaps because I am able to combine most of the mediums I enjoy using into one piece of work. I began making housculptures around forty years ago when I created a small structure of a Brooklyn brownstone. To get the right feel of the subject I now include landscape, people, vehicles, etc. that depict the particular era of the piece.

Are there any other local artists you admire and would recommend people look into?

Jay Lilly's work as a photographer includes pictures of Richmond scenes in b/w with touches of color. Carmen Bendersky creates rich and colorful paintings in oil.

Are you working on any exciting new projects?

I am continuing to work on more housculptures and adding to my Richmond collection.

What advice would you give to people looking to become full-time/professional artists?

I would recommend anyone who is interested in creating art to try various mediums, join a local art gallery, set up a studio or space dedicated to your work, exhibit your art as much as possible and devote most of your creative time to work that makes you the happiest. Don't give up.





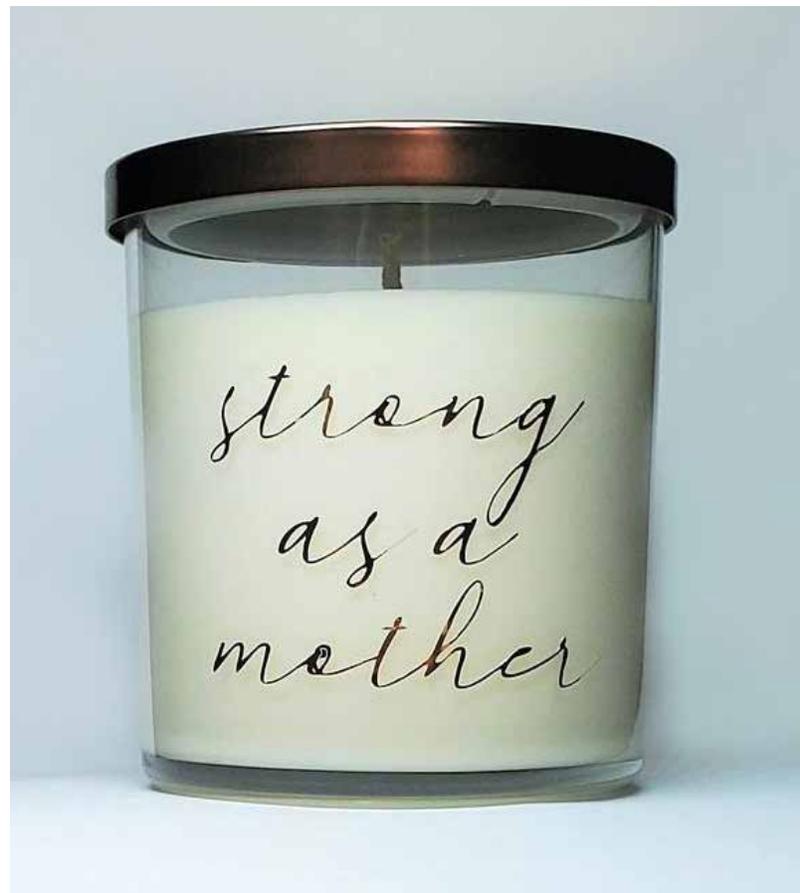
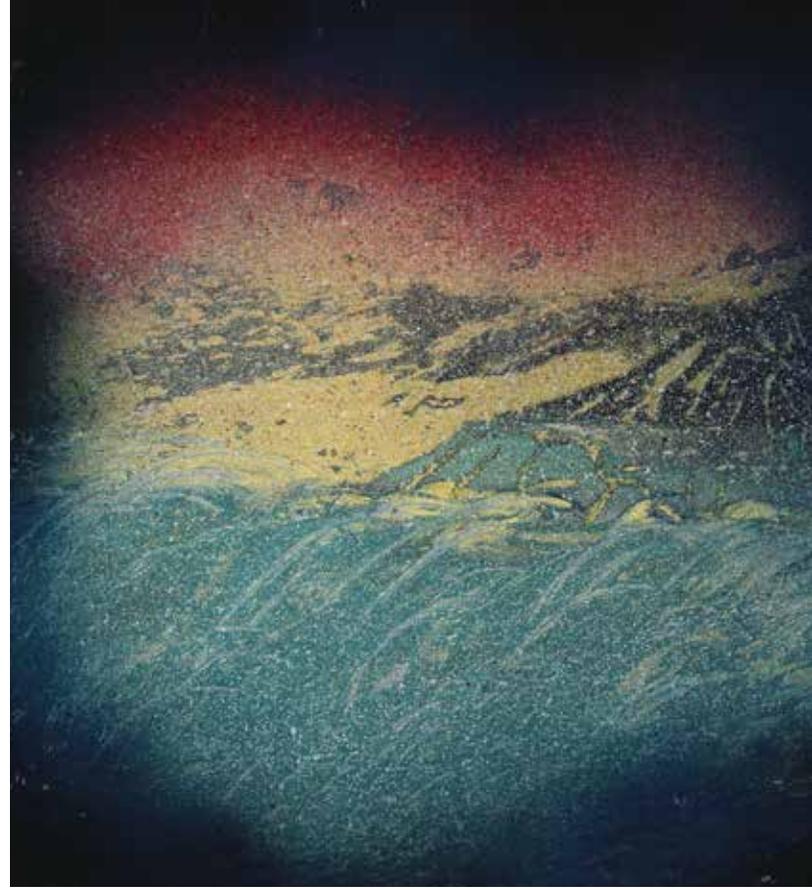
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Lauren Hall



THE ART OF SURVIVAL

7 PRO TIPS FOR NEW ARTISTS *FROM* ARTISTS

1. Keep a drawing notebook with you everywhere you go, and draw as often as you can. Finish what you start. Look at other artist's work for inspiration. Embrace small successes and let that encourage you to keep going.

- *Chris Jeanguenat*
2. Please don't be too hard on yourself! If you have an interest, it is likely you are an artist! Find good teachers! Explore! Constantly try new things! And never ever give up.

- *Carolyn Velletri*
3. Paint what you love, it will show in the work.

- *Terry Atkinson,*
4. Know what you want to get out of your art. I think there is a difference between pursuing creative endeavors for personal reasons and having an art business. Once you cross into the realm of business there are many other things you have to focus on to be successful. So really ask yourself if you want to spend time on marketing, insurance, taxes. And ask yourself if you want to put that kind of pressure on your art. Either answer is perfectly great, but a little thought in this direction can save a lot of pain later on.

- *Katie Crawford*
5. I tell people all of the time that anyone can be an artist. It is a learned skill just like anything else. Find something you love and just devote the time to it.

- *Jean Kleeman*
6. I feel as humans in a 24-hour day cycle, there is a limited amount of time, and we only have so much energy in a day to pursue our passions. Balance is key. Find that balance.

- *Justin Gaffrey*
7. First of all, follow your passion and stay true to what makes you happy. But you also have to spend a lot of time and energy on the business side if you hope to support yourself. I could write pages and pages about this and I'm still trying to figure it out for myself. Also, if you want to turn your hobby into a way to earn money, you have to maintain a high standard of quality. Remember that people are spending their hard-earned money on your art, so your product needs to be as good as they can possibly be. How you present your work, whether it's your website, your business cards, or your mobile vending setup, need to have the same standard of quality as your work.

- *Josh Stolberg*

A VERY
SPECIAL
THANK
YOU

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A special thanks to all those ticket holders, whether Center Season, 2nd Stage, or HTC, who donated their tickets back to The Center. During these unprecedented times, the amazing generosity of our patrons has made a significant impact in keeping the ghost light burning!

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LINDA LEAH WOLITZ

PASTELS: A VARIETY SHOW

ON EXHIBIT: NOVEMBER 12, 2020 – JANUARY 10, 2021

Through years of painting and teaching, Wolitz has explored and mastered pastels. She showcases in her newest exhibit the wide array of techniques and styles that can be achieved in her own style.



ART CHAT WITH LINDA LEAH WOLITZ

How did you get your start as an artist? Tell us a bit about your background.

Although I have drawn since I was a child, the only training I've had was in high school and in a few workshops. In high school in New Jersey, I found pastels, and they have been my favorite medium since then. The art training in high school included portraiture, which I enjoyed most. After a few attempts after high school I left art practices behind, until I was about to become a grandmother, and I decided if I was ever to become an artist, this was it. I quit my job, joined an art league, and slowly began to practice my art. Soon, I began painting portraits professionally of people and pets. I became Martinsville, Virginia's pastel portraitist. When my husband retired in 1997, we moved to Lakeland, Florida, where I had to start over again. I began teaching pastel portraiture and joined an art cooperative. For a time, I was the official portraitist at Cypress Gardens. I enjoyed the lakes and water birds and began painting birds. In 2005, we returned to Virginia to be near family, and I joined art leagues and galleries and was fortunate to be invited to exhibit in the Gumenick Family Gallery, and from there began teaching at the Cultural Arts Center, where I am to this day.

What are you aiming to communicate with your art?

This answer is simple and short. I wish to share the love and beauty that I see in the world.

How do you make time for your art? Do you have a routine or any best practices to share?

Since it is only my husband and me at home, and he supports my work fully, I have all the time I wish to paint. I have a separate studio space, which is one luxury that is almost a necessity for any working artist. These days, I consider myself semi-retired since I do not do my job every day. But to be a working artist, one must spend time every day doing something for their art, whether it is painting, taking and/or giving lessons, advertising, exploring galleries, talking to others, and catching up with what's on YouTube, etc.

Tell us about your exhibit at The Cultural Arts Center. What was the inspiration?

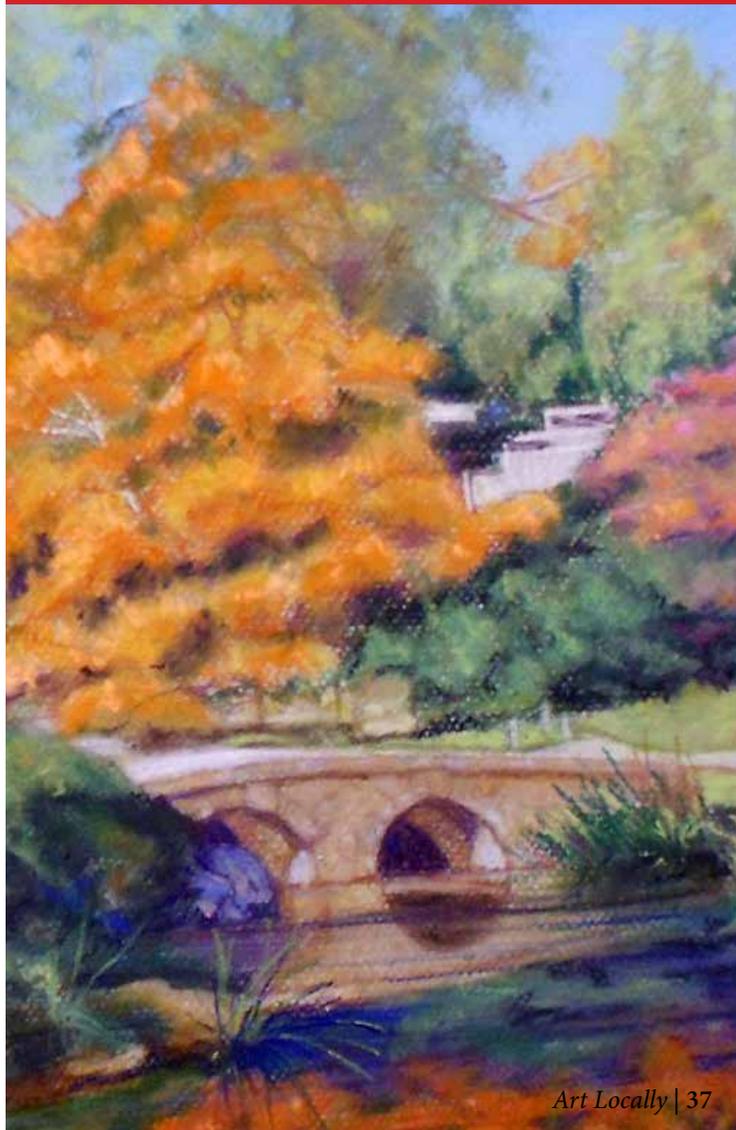
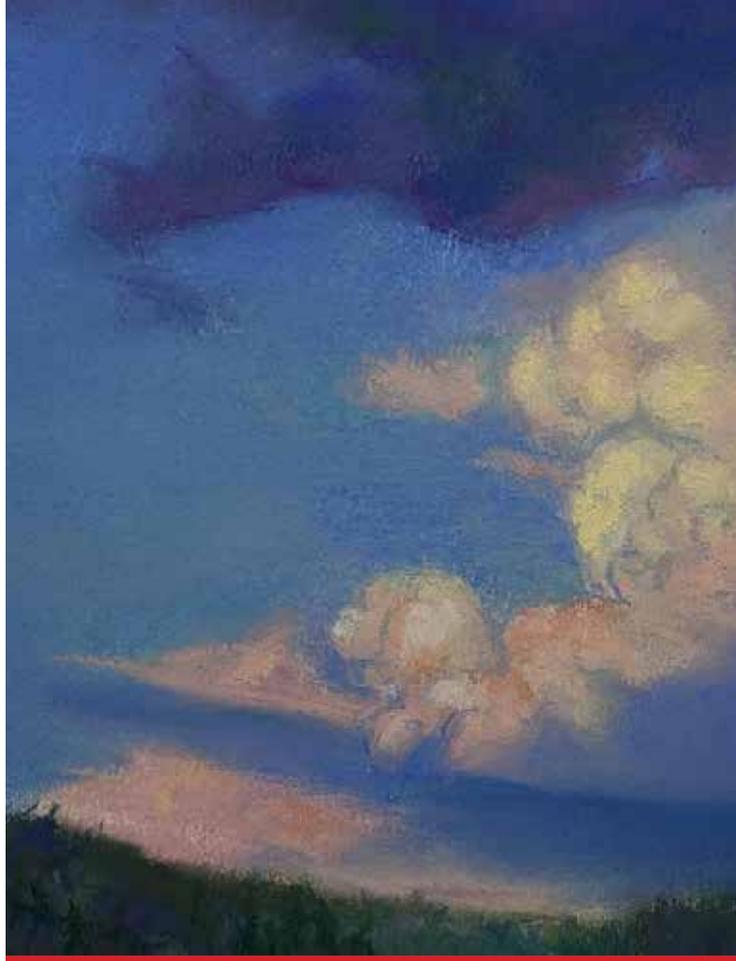
I'd title it, "A Variety Show" because it was inspired by an exhibit I saw at VMFA. Chuck Close is a modern master who painted only one subject – portraits. But he painted them in various media, some I had to see to believe. I, on the other hand, use mostly one medium, soft pastels, but in this exhibit are portraits of people and animals, still lifes, landscapes, and more.

What advice would you give to new artists?

As the old joke goes, "practice, practice, practice". It doesn't matter what, just pick up that brush or pencil, or clay, and draw, paint or sculpt what you see, preferably from life.

What's next for you? Are you working on any exciting new projects?

Recently I have begun painting clouds, with a few in this show. I find them hard but rewarding when well done. It is exciting to me to have something new to teach my classes here at The Cultural Arts Center.





“RIVAH RETREAT” BY LOCAL ARTIST **BEVERLY HUNDLEY**

**FEATURED IN OUR OCTOBER SLANTWALL EXHIBIT,
ARTISTS REFLECTIONS** Members of the Tuckahoe Artists
Association display their artwork in a variety of media.
Founded in 1971 to stimulate interest in the fine arts, the
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DR. JOHN R. LYNCH

Dr. John R. Lynch is a local psychologist, author of several books on men’s mental health issues, and a devoted supporter of The Cultural Arts Center (CACGA). He is one of our many loyal patrons who went above and beyond in the face of the pandemic to ensure The Center’s continuity during quarantine. We caught up with him to ask what makes The Center a special place to him.

1. What first brought you to The Center?

I have always appreciated live music. I think that is the venue that best brings out the joys of listening. And I have almost exclusively sought out small venues, like coffee shops. So, when I learned about the CACGA’s two stages I was immediately drawn to it. My first concerts were with the Kingston Trio, the Richmond Symphony and Susan Greenbaum, and J.D. Souther. I was hooked! They were just wonderful concerts and I signed up for more. Both stages are ideal for appreciating music in the format it has always been meant for; live performances in intimate settings.



We are all in this together, and this crisis has brought us an opportunity to know and support what is meaningful and integral to this community.

2. Since that first encounter, have you discovered and enjoyed other activities at The Center?

The gift shop is simply amazing. I was immediately drawn to a print by P. Buckley Moss that I simply could not leave in the gift shop. The staff was more than helpful and made me feel at home. Once I saw the schedule of performances and the range of styles, from classical to bluegrass and everything in between, I was just thrilled to know something like this was in my own backyard. Then I noticed the art classes offered and have been a steady student ever since.

3. What inspired you to donate?

We are all in this together, and this crisis has brought us an opportunity to know and support what is meaningful and integral to this community. The Center gives so much back to the community. I know I had to help in the small ways I could. We share our blessings and receive blessings as well. I feel that way about The Center, I give what I can and get back so much more.

4. As a mental health professional, could you speak to the impact of the arts on a person’s state of mind?

Arts have been a vital part of all cultures. One of the ways we understand a culture from another land or from a distant century is the art produced by that culture. Art gives an expression of the human condition, with its struggles, beauty, triumphs, and tragedies. Art gets us out of our own troubles and gives us the opportunity to be a part of something that transcends the troubles we face in our day to day struggles.

5. What are you most looking forward to when we are past “COVID Life?”

Live Music! Live performances, just as they are meant to be experienced!

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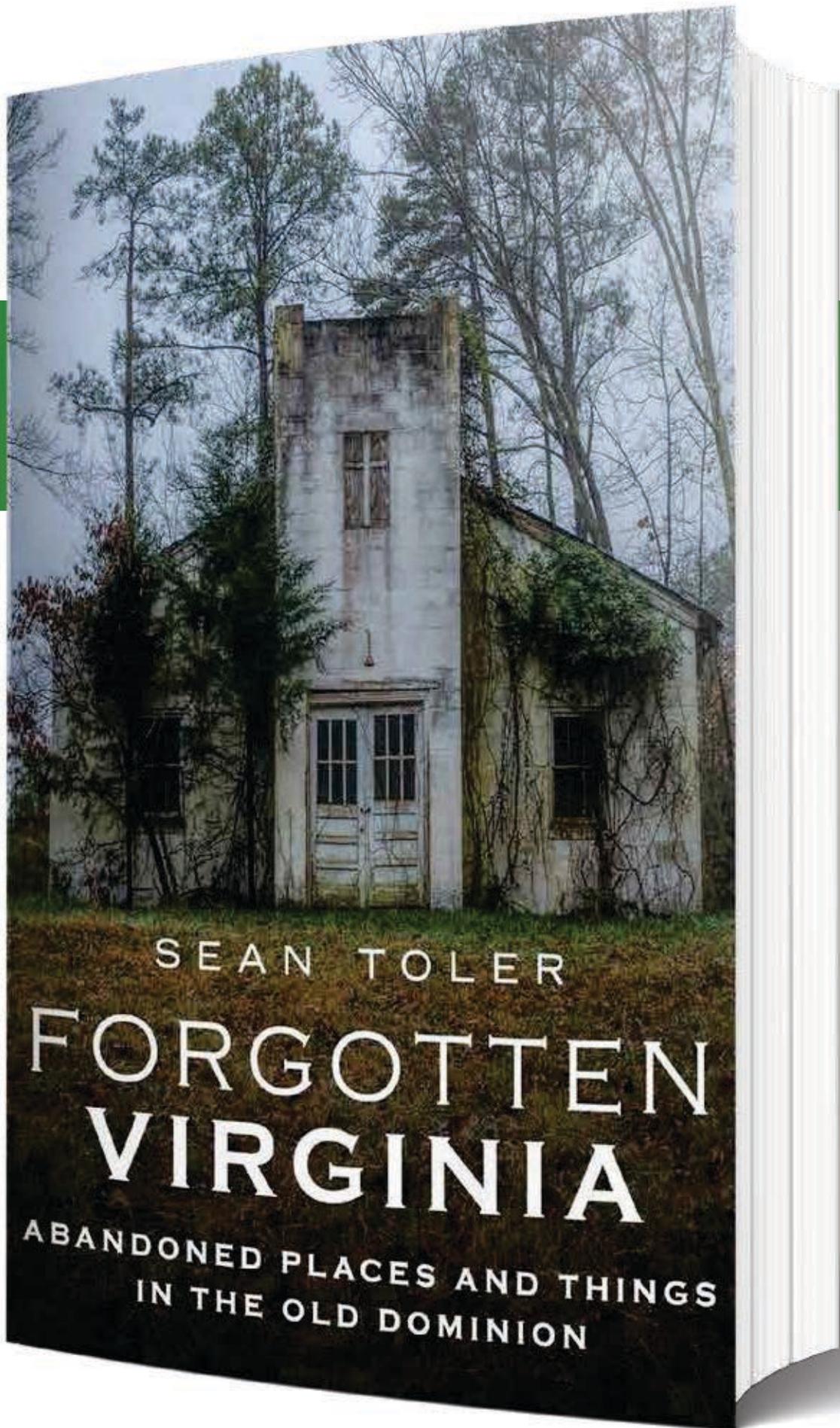
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GOOD READ



Photographer Sean Toler

Traveling the roads of Virginia, Sean Toler has photographed numerous old, abandoned buildings in an effort to make them last a little longer. Knowing that some of the buildings he has photographed no longer stand, he is grateful that he was able to capture them before they disappeared from the landscape forever. Discover Sean Toler's new book, "Forgotten Virginia" in our gift shop at The Cultural Arts Center and on our online store.





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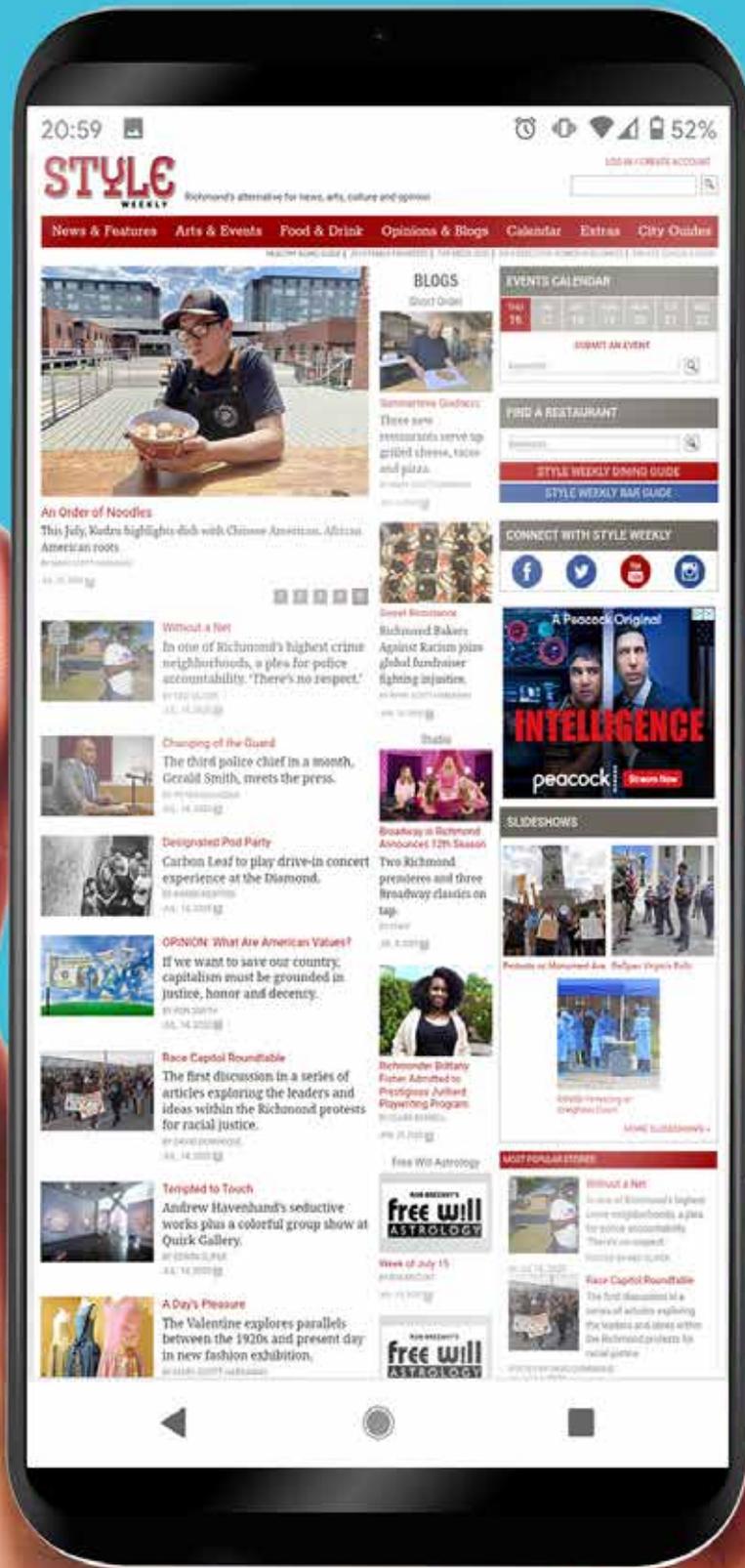


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