Silversmith House restoration moving ahead

It might not be visible yet, but Silversmith House repair priorities are getting attention, thanks to the $10,000 grant from the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rapahannock River Region.

The Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, caretaker of the historic house, received competitive bids to replace clapboards at the back left corner of the building, and scraping and painting of the entire outside, minus the shutters.

According to Michael Randall, Board of Trustees chair of building and grounds, he will skinny down his list of potential contractors, and invite the final three in for more in-depth assessment and conversation. Repairs should begin soon after the FCCA chooses a contractor.

Other priorities on the repair list include windowsills, shutters and masonry work. “We are working to obtain funding to proceed after the corner repair and painting are completed,” said Randall.

The Community Foundation unifies charitable gifts of individuals to provide leadership and financial leverage to address needs of the community.

The Silversmith House, circa 1785, is an example of a middle-class family’s home just after the Revolutionary War. The property is also the site of Fredericksburg’s first Fourth of July celebration in 1805 and was used as a forward Union hospital during both Civil War battles for Fredericksburg.

In celebration of Earth Day, Caledon State Park on the Potomac River in King George County hosts a beach clean-up and creative art making event April 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The FCCA is partnering with Caledon to support this ecology friendly art event.

"Trash to Art" is a free event open to all ages with prizes for the most creative sculptures. Caledon invites artists, non-artists, children, teens, and adults to work individually or in teams to remove litter from the beach and have fun assembling litter into unique art forms.

Participants should meet at the Caledon Visitor Center Pavilion at 10 a.m. Transportation will be provided to/from the beach and all participants will be provided with trash bags for collecting litter. Litter collection bags will be transported to the park pavilion at noon for sculpture building. A picnic lunch will be provided for a donation.

Participants should bring basic sculpture building supplies including lightweight wire, string, utility scissors, pliers/wire cutter, and hole punch/awl to create art from 1-2:30 p.m.

Judging begins at 2:30 p.m. with prizes in many categories. Register to participate before April 19, by phoning Caledon Visitor Center at 540-663-3861 or email to Caledon@dcr.virginia.gov. Provide your name, phone number, and the number in your party. For more info or to volunteer to help, contact Caledon or Carrol Morgan at xmorgan@hotmail.com or 540-760-6928.
February 2013 - Books & Words

Juror's Statement  Ginna Cullen

What is an Artist's Book or rather, Book Arts? A succinct definition is elusive. This form of artistic expression is constantly being reinvented and the results continually excite and surprise the viewer.

Several months ago I was flattered to be offered the opportunity to jury the "Books and Words" show here at the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts. Upon arriving, I found a large variety of artists' books and paintings. The addition of "Words" to the title of this show allowed artists to further broaden the concept of Book Arts. I found this to be an excellent addition.

Choosing the work for this show was a difficult task and I want to compliment all of the artists for their creativity and many uses and combinations of materials. I believe those seeing the work in this show may find that their own definition of a book will be somewhat altered.

It was my pleasure to jury this show. Having graduated in art from Mary Washington College and also having been born and raised in Fredericksburg, I am very aware of the value of the FCCA to the city and its artists.

Honorable Mentions

Break Out mixed media by Carolyn Beever, Stafford, Va.

Art Words mixed media/collage by Kathleen Willingham, Bealeton, Va.


Graffiti Train oil pastel by Guerin Wolf, Fredericksburg, Va.

Frederic Gallery
Exhibits Timeline

May 2013 "Lines & Edges"
National Juried Exhibit

Exhibit dates: April 26-May 31.
Juror: Allison Long Hardy

Allison Long Hardy is an artist, adjunct professor, and gallery professional located in Woodbridge, VA. Her work has been exhibited nationally, most recently at McDaniel College and the Delaplaine Visual Arts and Education Center. Hardy serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Mary Washington and as the Visitor Services Coordinator at the UMW Galleries. Hardy has taught in at various educational institutions including Northern Virginia Community College, Towson University, and Maryland Institute College of Art. Prior to moving to the Northern Virginia area, Hardy served as the Coordinator of College Exhibitions at the Corcoran College of Art + Design where she mounted over sixty exhibitions every year. She earned her BA in Intermedia from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2006 and MFA from Towson University in 2008.

Exhibit opens: April 28
Opening reception: First Friday, May 3, 6-8:30 pm.
Exhibit closes: May 31, at 4 p.m.
Pick up hand delivered work: June 1, noon–4 p.m., or within 10 days
Approximate return shipping: June 3

June 2013 Regional Juried Exhibit

Exhibit dates: June 2–June 28
Juror: TBA
Entries due: May 24, by 4 p.m.
Jurying: May 28
Notification calls: May 30 (pick up declined work within 10 days)
Exhibit opens: June 2
Opening reception: First Friday, June 7, 6-8:30 pm, Juror Talk 6 p.m.
Exhibit closes: June 28, at 4 p.m.
Pick up exhibited work: Saturday, June 29, noon–4 pm, or within 10 days
One question is always at the top of viewers’ minds (and often strongly voiced) when they take in an exhibit of selected works: Why did the juror choose that piece? And there are variations of this question: What was the juror thinking? Were the juror’s choices based on subjectivity or objectivity? Is the juror qualified to judge this kind of theme when he doesn’t even make art that addresses this theme or doesn’t work in these particular mediums?

It may seem baffling to artists and viewers of art how the selection process functions and how the same work can be accepted in one exhibit and declined in another. I know. That’s been my experience with some of my work. However, as an artist, a student of art, a teacher of artists and a juror for many years, I can express how the process unfolds for me. It’s about objectivity and subjectivity, familiarity and surprise.

When I “read” a work I initially rely on first impression, how the piece strikes me. That instant reaction then quickly transitions into an analysis of three equally important and interdependent components: message, material and means. Message is concept, content or meaning. Material is the medium and the way it is handled, its technical qualities. Means is structure, the form or composition. In some works these components are so organically fused there seems to be no distinction among them. This assessment is objective: How each of these components qualifies the others. I rely on my familiarity with making, viewing and studying art to arrive at this. But there is also the subjective and this is when “surprise” kicks in. This happens when the logic of these demonstrable components yields to the artist’s peculiar dialogue with the viewer. Sometimes the unexpected occurs even within an established genre or style: The artist’s idiomatic presence. When all of these pieces seamlessly join, the art conveys its fluency and the viewer is engaged.

For this exhibit of Faces and Figures, I sought what would engage me and sustain my attention. Although our acquaintance with the human face and body is common, I sought those works that made me see uncommonly.

**March 2013 - Faces & Figures**  
**Juror's Statement**  
Joseph Di Bella

First Place  

Second Place  
Affirmations mixed media by Pat Kumicich, Naples, Fla.

Third Place  
Fais Do Do graphite & acrylic by Ernie L. Fournet, New Iberia, La.

Honorable Mentions

Fingertips photograph by Maura Harrison, Fredericksburg, Va.

Before the Fall acrylic painting by Patricia Smith, Locust Grove, Va.

Donna oil painting by Zachary Kator, Williamsburg, Va.

Barefoot Rank mixed paper collage by Teresa Blatt, North Hills, Ca.
We couldn’t exist without you

Greetings, FCCA Members and Friends!

I know we are all looking forward to warmer weather! Walking our historic little city, browsing our museums and galleries, and frequenting our restaurants are among my favorite things to do on a lovely Spring day.

This issue of the newsletter will keep you abreast of progress on restoring FCCA’s historic Silversmith House. Although not yet visible, there is a lot going on. We are indebted to all who’ve contributed to the Building Restoration Fund, including the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund grant from The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region, for their generosity in making possible the start of the restoration. Joseph Di Bella is graciously donating proceeds from his April 27th Critique Workshop.

We continue to honor all our Docents in our new Docent-in-Focus column. This time, we highlight Lee Cochrane who not only provides the great refreshments at our First Friday receptions but also serves weekly as an FCCA Docent. Thank you, Lee, for everything you do!

It’s not too early to start preparing your application for next year’s Members’ Gallery line-up. Twenty-two spots are available in 2014. Check out Page 8 in this newsletter and our website, www.fccava.org, for more info.

As an all-volunteer organization, FCCA couldn’t exist without our dedicated members and hard-working volunteers.

Best wishes for a wonderful Spring!
Carol

Lee Cochrane April/May Docent-in-Focus

The FCCA would like to recognize Lee Cochrane as the latest Docent-In-Focus. Thanks for all you do, Lee!

Lee Cochrane has been a member of the FCCA for three years, and has been contributing in vital ways from the start. The FCCA has been able to open the galleries an extra day each week since Lee joined. She said, “When I signed up to be a docent, they were talking about trying to open on Wednesdays, so I told them I would schedule myself to work those days. I was looking for a way to get more active in the community, so volunteering weekly as a docent was a good fit for me.” The FCCA galleries are now only closed on Tuesdays, and it’s because of the generosity and hard work of our docents that we are open six days a week.

Lee helps out in many other great ways, too. She serves as the FCCA Hospitality Coordinator, being responsible for organizing First Friday receptions and ensuring guests receive a warm welcome. Lee saw a need in FCCA’s events, so she “volunteered to consolidate the First Friday planning; I do all the notifying, shopping and setup. Everyone is so great about contributing a variety of food and beverages, they make my job much easier!”

The FCCA relies on member volunteers to act as First Friday hosts, and we appreciate their service, greeting visitors, introducing exhibiting artists, and helping to make each opening night a success.

Lee explained how she came to know the FCCA, having “always enjoyed dabbling in art, I got hooked on photography when I bought a Nikon D50 for a trip to Scotland and England in 2006.

One of my cousins liked my photos and encouraged me to show my work, so I entered five pieces in the Fredericksburg Photography Show. To my surprise, I came home with a first and three honorable mentions! I joined the Fredericksburg Photography Club after that, and I began volunteering at the FCCA.”

“I hit the road every chance I get, and of course I bring my camera. I’ve been sailing most of my life, and it was through sailing that I met my husband. We crew together on a keelboat and race against each other in the summer.”

Lee is anticipating an important race in August, and always looking out for the FCCA, she is seeking volunteers well in advance to handle reception setup for First Friday, Aug. 2nd. If you can help, please contact Lee at (540) 373-5646.
There’s lots going on at your FCCA

Exhibits, restoration, workshop, anniversary, thank you volunteers

By Carrol Morgan
Frederick Gallery Curator

Entry deadline days are always exciting as I see the incoming artworks to be juried. My submissions assistant Sheila Cockey and I collect the entry forms for data processing, but we also enjoy looking at the variety of entries which represent so many talented artists. I encourage all artists to enter their work in juried exhibits for the experience and for exposure to an audience.

In addition, exhibitions financially support FCCA and provide the community with high quality art in a free admissions gallery. I am especially pleased by the continued submissions from our local members and the out-of-state artists who enter their artwork and show their appreciation with complimentary cards and messages.

I hope members have noticed the restored plaster and dormers in the upstairs areas, completed by Michael Dean, and supported by our Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund grant from The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region. Plans are being made for restoration and painting of the exterior of the Silversmith House in time for our FCCA 50th Anniversary in October 2013. Please consider making a generous donation to the Building Restoration Fund which will help provide matching funds towards a façade restoration grant.

The Frederick Gallery is presenting a special “Critique Workshop” with Joseph Di Bella, Distinguished Professor of Art, UMW, Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's limited to 15 participants. Cost is $20 members/$25 non-members, and Professor Di Bella is donating all proceeds to the Building Restoration Fund. Registration forms are at the Docent Desk.

Monthly exhibitions require many volunteers who commit one day or more each month to the many tasks required to present our exhibits—appropriately called committee members, they deserve our gratitude for their time and expertise. Many thanks to the “take down crew” Barbara Hall, Bev Bley, Ann Tate, Penny Hicks, Jeff Messmore, Tom Smagala and Marie Motz; “hanging crew” Donna Coley, Heidi Lewis, Bob Worthy, Kate Logan, Jeff Messmore and Tom Smagala; Assistant Curator, Bob Worthy; Exhibit Photographer, Carolyn Beever, and Submissions Assistant, Sheila Cockey. Volunteers are always welcome to join us, and I am especially looking for an assistant who is interested in training to become a future curator.

The FCCA Board of Trustees is planning events to celebrate our 50th Anniversary and to acknowledge our wonderful artists, members and patrons. If you have time and ideas, please offer to volunteer by speaking to one of the board members.

Study art in Italy with Sally Rhone-Kubarek

This summer, Sally Rhone-Kubarek, FCCA Member, will co-teach a class in screen printing with a long time friend, Vidabeth Bensen, in a small Italian village, near Sulmona, approximately an hour and a half to the East of Rome. This is a grand opportunity to combine a “Roman Holiday” with art education.

The Abruzzo School of Creative Art, based in Introdacqua, is run by Averil Stuart-Head from Christchurch, New Zealand. Classes are in English and her instructors are hired from around the world. According to the school’s website, “The journey to becoming a skilled and accomplished artist is perpetual. The work can be intense, though fulfilling. Skills need constant updating. However, an important part of the process is building into your schedule a time for renewal, for new experiences, and for a different perspective. Vacations for artists are not only to get away from it all, but rather to find ways to inspire their work.”

To find out more about this opportunity please visit the www.abruzzoschoolofcreativeart2013.com site and select Vidabeth Bensen from the list of instructors at the top of the page. There is a complete description of her background as well as samples of her work.

The class dates are Aug. 28 to Sept. 3. The deadline for registration (which can be done on line) is June 19.
It gives me joy to create art that is enjoyed by others and at the same time lets me continue to grow and expand and evolve. I want my paintings to express that joy I have with the act of putting paint from brush to canvas. I strive to show this through my use of line, shape, and color. I am currently focusing on my love of flowers and plants and their beauty, rhythm, and colors.

I use acrylic paint for its consistency and versatility. In the past I have used a lot of water with the paint for a very washy effect but currently I have found that using a little heavier paint and layering colors lets me achieve the look that I desire. I also do not start with a white canvas; I have discovered a brand of gesso that comes in a wonderful range of colors and that is my background. It gives the canvas a nice surface on which to draw and when I apply my paint I sometimes let the background color bleed through. It sets the tone for the whole painting.

I visit gardens and conservatories and take many photos to use as references for my paintings. I am able to zoom and crop the images using Photoshop to come up with the desired compositions. I look for shapes, both positive and negative, when deciding on what to paint. I am not always true to the colors represented in the photos and do a lot of decision making along the way as to background, flower and foliage colors.

I am inspired by the colors of Matisse and Gauguin, the linear flow of Van Gogh, and the brilliance of Cezanne.

There has never been a time that I have not thought of myself as an artist.
In his May Members’ Gallery show titled, THIRTY 8x10 PAINTINGS, Tom Smagala has created small, affordable, little gems that people could relate to.

Tom has been painting since 1970 and is a three-year FCCA member. He has won numerous awards in Fredericksburg and Richmond, and was recently accepted into the 2013 BAL National Exhibition in Beaumont, Texas.

Tom’s paintings combine realism and impressionism with an emphasis on dynamic brush strokes, emotional content and color compositions.

His upcoming show features paintings with a variety of subject matter based on various aspects of his life, family, friends, travel experiences and things that capture his curiosity. For example, one of his paintings focuses on the door knob at the Fredrick Gallery. Another painting is a still life in from a past trip to Italy. Other paintings are based on beach landscapes and nautical scenes.

“I get bored painting the same subject all the time,” said Tom. “I carry my camera wherever I go and photograph all sorts of subject matter. One of my paintings was of a man eating lunch by himself at Panera Bread. I never know where, when or what will captivate my curiosity,” he said.

Clockwise from top, Texaco Station, Playing in the Water, Homeless Woman, and Gallery Door Knob, paintings by Tom Smagala.
2014 Members’ Gallery Call for Entries

Get busy! It’s not too early to prep

By Bill Hartland
Members’ Gallery Coordinator

2014 is a long way off, but it already time to consider your art for the 2014 Members’ Gallery line-up. Twenty-two spots are available in 2014!

The 2012 and 2013 Members’ Gallery has featured solo art exhibits and quality ones at that. There was an FCCA record of 43 entries for 2012 submissions, but the number of 2013 submissions dropped. To encourage more entries, 2014 will feature up to two artists each month, January-November.

As in years past, the selection process will continue to be fair, anonymous, and as confidential as possible. I’ve invited three, out-of-town jurors to convene in August and evaluate entries. The jurors will also help decide on artist pairings based on entries. In the unlikely event there are less than 22 submissions, artists of top rated portfolios will be offered a solo exhibit opportunity.

I hope you will consider entering. The Members’ Gallery is a rather unique artist benefit. As before, all types of artwork is encouraged. Three dimensional artwork has been more prominent at FCCA lately and 3D submissions are certainly encouraged.

So snap high-quality photos of your mosaic work, textiles, pottery, drawings, sculpture, paintings, photography, lithography, screen-printing, digital graphics, mixed media, etc. Or hit the studio hard since you still have time!

Entries for 2014 must include a completed application from the FCCA website or docent desk, one original art-work, and four high quality jpeg images e-mailed to me at membersgallery@FCCAva.org.

Or entries can be submitted on a CD with four high quality jpeg images. FCCA member, Carolyn Beever, has offered to professionally photograph applicant entries for artists who need digital images on CD. A date will be forthcoming for those interested.

Artists can make appointments with the FCCA docent for these photos when a date is been set. There are no thematic requirements, although entries should best represent your creative style and vision.

At the end of the juring, each artist will receive an evaluation form on which the jurors independently score the work and make written comments based on strength of composition and mastery of the medium. Artists whose scores reflect a readiness to show will be offered a particular month in 2014. Artists should receive their invitations to exhibit and/or evaluations by August 30, 2013. Check out the FCCA website and follow the Call for Artists link for more application specifics. Feel free to e-mail me, membersgallery@FCCAva.org, or kellybillhartland@gmail.com with any questions or ideas. We have a talented membership and I look forward to your high caliber exhibits!

Small Yet Significant

Acrylic by Lynn Abbott, Regional Juried Exhibit, this and 44 other works from local artist are on display in the Frederick Gallery until April 26. Trudi C. Van Dyke, an independent curator and fine arts consultant, juried the show. Don’t miss the First Friday opening reception, April 5, 6-8:30 p.m. with the juror’s talk and presentation of awards at 6 p.m.
The FCCA Frederick Gallery Exhibitions Committee has arranged for a special "Critique Workshop" with Joseph Di Bella, Distinguished Professor of Art, Department of Art and Art History, University of Mary Washington and juror of FCCA regional and national exhibits.

Professor Di Bella will share his expertise with a limited class of 15 participants, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Members’ Gallery.

The critique will cover two works from each artist, including all media-2-D, 3-D, fine craft, and photography. The cost is $20 per member/$25 non-members and includes snacks and beverages, with lunch on your own from noon to 1 p.m.

All proceeds will be donated to the Building Restoration Fund. Register for the Critique Workshop at the Docent Desk or by phone to FCCA (540-373-5646). Payment by cash, charge or check to FCCA is due by April 20.

A waiting list will be available if the workshop is filled before April 20.

This is a rare opportunity to have your artwork critiqued by the foremost art professor and juror in our region. Professor Di Bella brings a unique personal approach to discussing art and to sharing his expertise on how to prepare work for exhibition. Register early to insure a seat. For additional information, contact Carrol Morgan, Curator, Frederick Gallery, 540-760-6928 or curator-frederick-gallery@fccava.org.

Joseph Di Bella, Distinguished Professor of Art, has taught at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., since 1977. He served as chair of the Department of Art and Art History, 1990-1993 and 1996-1999 and Director of University Galleries, 1983-1988. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Ridderhof Martin Gallery at Mary Washington. He was co-director of the University’s program in Urbino, Italy, 1994-2003.

He holds a BA in art history from Rutgers and MA and MFA degrees in painting from Northern Illinois University. A signature member of the National Watercolor Society and affiliated with other professional art organizations, he has exhibited in regional, national and international venues. He was recently FCCA’s juror for the National Exhibit, “Faces & Figures.”
Stay tuned for events
There are several special events being planned this year to celebrate the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts 50th anniversary. Stay tuned to the email blasts, the website www.fccava.org, and the newsletter for more details.

Read newsletter online
You can read back issues of the FCCA newsletter online at http://www.fccava.org/news/index.html. News releases are also posted on the same web site.

Return unused keys
If you are an inactive volunteer docent, thank you for your valuable time and please return your key.
When you return your key, please make sure you’re signed off on the key log in the back of the docent handbook. Check your bag or box of unidentified keys. The head or bow of the key is a trapezoid shape. Thank you.

Got PR skills? We need you!
Volunteer opportunities are plentiful at the FCCA. Known as “the place where art and history meet,” the FCCA has a special need for those with interests in visual arts and historic preservation, particularly with skills in Marketing, Public Relations and Social Media.
If you have free time on your hands and would like to devote your expertise to help further the mission of the FCCA, we’d love to talk to you! If you’re interested, please email fcca_pr@fccava.org.
Volunteer docents keep the doors open at the FCCA Wednesday through Monday noon to 4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and there is always a need for more docents. To learn more about volunteer opportunities available and the benefits of membership, visit www.fccava.org or call (540) 373-5646.

Tax deductible membership
FCCA membership fee is tax deductible, and is used to enrich cultural awareness in the Fredericksburg area. Your membership fees provide operating funds used for juried art exhibits, community education activities and facility maintenance.

Get all calls for entries
If you are not on our prospectus mailing list and want to receive FCCA Frederick Gallery exhibition Calls for Entries, please leave a message with a docent at 540-373-5646, or contact Carrol Morgan, curator, 540-760-6928 or curator-frederick-gallery@fccava.org.

Calling all poets
You’re invited to ‘Poetry at the FCCA, the first Saturday, each month, 1 p.m. For more info, contact Sylvia Higgins, Poetry_Group_Leader@FCCAva.org

Not getting us? Moved?
Did you move? Know someone who isn’t getting it and should? Want to read the online version instead? Contact Sally Rhone-Kubarek, membershipchair@fccava.org

Member’s show
Sara Looney, Kathy Waltermire and Doris Barbee are exhibiting at JarrettThor Fine Arts, 100 Taylor St., #101, Colonial Beach. The show runs April 12-May 5. Opening reception April 12, 6-9 p.m. The gallery hours are Thurs.-Sun. 10-5, or by appointment. 804-224-7200.
Welcome New Members

Joined November 2012:
  Patrick De Crane
  Barbara Perry

Joined December 2012:
  Mary Jane Bohlen
  Mat Gross
  Nancy Mottley
  Barbara C. Strickler
  Melissa Terlizzi

Joined January 2013:
  Gloria Benedetto
  Cheryl Bosch (CEEBS)
  Diana Buckley
  Connie Canby
  Sheila & Josh Cockey
  Anne H. Flythe
  Nathan Roberts
  Robyn Ryan

The Siena School
  Cynthia Silva
  Elizabeth Woodford
  Todd & Suzy Woollam

Joined February 2013:
  Leslie Cruz
  Ginna Cullen
  Isaac Levenbrown
  Vicki Marckel
  Vincent Staley
  Jean Wilcox

Joined March 2013:
  Maria Behnke
  Barbara Croson
  Clement Pryor
  Kerri Williams

Thank You For Your Donations

Donations:
December 2012 to February 2013

Fellow ($500-999):
  Anonymous

Donor ($100-249):
  Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harman
  Joan & Ted Limbrick
  Carol B. Waite

Friend ($50-99):
  Bill & Susan Beck
  Johnny Johnson
  Sally & Bob Kubarek
  Lorie McCown
  Cynthia Spotswood
  Norma J Starkweather
  Anne Timpano
  Bob & Jackie Worthy

Perfect Snow Day
Digital Painting by
Carolyn R. Beever,
Faces & Figures
Exhibit, March 2013.
Where Art and History Meet

HOURS:
Sun.-Fri. 12–4 PM
Closed Tues.
Sat. 11 AM – 4 PM

Editor & Designer: Valerie McGovern
Photographer: Kenneth Lecky

Anthony Angelo for Angelfish
Batik by Sally Rhone-Kubarek, Faces & Figures Exhibit, March 2013.