

INTO THE WEST

Western Loudoun art on display



Billie Van Pay

Fine Art: Loudoun County artists have always been a valuable local resource, and the organizations are becoming more active in

the area to help connect artists with those who are interested in finding the appropriate art works. Some of Loudoun County's artists have grouped in an effort to become more accessible. Regional art collectors and enthusiasts have a new online resource available to them when looking for original fine art. Fine Art Professionals of Northern Virginia's new website, fineartvirginia.com is an exciting and new resource that brings together some of Virginia's top professional artists in an easy-to-use website directory. Jill Poyerd, NWS, a Loudoun County artist and founding member of the group says, "Most online databases have an overwhelmingly large number of members. We wanted to offer art enthusiasts a concise list of regional fine art painters who not only do fabulous artwork, but also present themselves and their work in a business-like manner."

According to the founding members of Fine Art Professionals of Northern Virginia, all of the artists featured on this site have met a series of criteria to establish themselves as working professionals in their fields and have, collectively, exhibited throughout the nation, served as jurors for fine art exhibitions, published in national

magazines, written books and taught classes or workshops around the world. All of the artist are painters, but there is a broad representation of mediums and styles included, giving the website a wide range of appeals.

Mary Champion, a Loudoun County resident and fellow founding member says, "Although we don't have immediate plans to expand the website, we're not going to limit ourselves regarding the future ideas that may benefit the online art browser." The group is finalizing details for their first exhibition to be held in October. As the website directory shows, a number of western Loudoun artists are included and will exhibit at that time. The website, fineartvirginia.com, is an excellent resource.

WLAST: Another organization of artists in the area will hold their 8th Annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour June 22-23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tour is open to the public and will be presented in joint partnership with Franklin Park Arts Center, Friends of Franklin Arts Center, Round Hill Arts Center, Loudoun Academy of Arts Foundation and Art Square.

The artists will offer a weekend of art browsing, shopping and recreation to everyone interested in seeing what the local artists do, how well that do it and where they work. A drive through the scenic countryside in the western part of Loudoun can include stops along the way to meet the artists in their studios and art centers. More than 60 artists will exhibit on the tour.



Courtesy photo/Donna Clark

The Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour includes Donna Clark's studio at the historic Old Rectory in Aldie.

The website, wlast.org, gives information for the tour including a list of the artists and a map with directions to the exhibits. These artists are well known for their outstanding work. For example, one of the artists is Donna Clark whose studio at the Old Aldie Rectory, 39207 Mosby Highway, is Stop No. 16 on the tour. She is widely acclaimed for her masterful use of color and an inherent ability to create light infused images. Her oil paintings have a dreamy quality to them, impressionistic and abstract. The color choices are dramatic and evoke references to the landscapes around Virginia and to the landscapes of places where she traveled in the American Southwest and Europe.

Clark says of her art work, "The art of documenting the world around me offers me a profound sense of belonging to the moment. A snapshot in

time translates into my inner consciousness, and then I create abstract paintings referencing the natural world. I do my finest work in my studio alongside my home. I am inspired by the sunrises, sunsets, clouds, rain, mist and sunshine.

Although painting and print making are my main focus as an artist, I also incorporate digital photography into my process. Each photograph that I take shares common threads with my painting and printmaking. I call my works, "Portraits in Time and Place." For more information regarding Clark's studio and work, visit her website, DonnaClarkArtist.com, email donnaclark3@aol.com or call 703-327-3430. For more information regarding WLAST, visit the website wlast.org or call Art Square at 703-777-5498.

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