

Art in the Time of Covid

August 19, 2020

Artists interpret the world, and right now it's an unfamiliar world we're living in. We're providing an opportunity for all of us to share our creative work inspired by this experience.

We are sending out periodic emails showcasing the Covid-inspired work of Rappahannock artists and others in the community whose creativity has been stirred by these times.

The art takes different forms — visual, written, video or audio — but deals in some way with the new patterns of our everyday lives. We encourage you to participate by submitting your art and describing how it's been affected by Covid. We also welcome feedback and will pass along your comments to the artists. Contact covidart@raac.org.

Beth Hall

"I call this body of work Viriditas. In it, I continue my interest in the medicinal qualities of plants as both a symbol and celebration of the common life force which is shared by all life. It is my hope that the living green abundance of nature may surround us to comfort, to heal, and to restore."





"The journey of this work began as a way to connect and to develop an understanding of this relationship with various plants and their affinity for our human bodily systems. The act of drawing while imbibing each herb began the creative process."

"This visual transference of the healing power of plants to humans became my Viriditas: an experience envisioned and translated by 12th century polymath and nun Hildegard von Bingen as "greening power". Hildegard's belief that in the absence of this essential divine verdure human existence suffers, profoundly resonates today. For, in our disconnect with this sacred balance, we have lost respect of nature, and, in turn, of each other."

"This work served for me as a portal into the interconnectedness of all life and the extraordinary healing capacity of nature's gifts. It is my desire that the work will inspire others to seek respect, empathy, and healing in this time of both extraordinary challenge and potential."

Beth is a professor in the School of Art at GMU



Lyt Wood

"During the past six months, I have written one and a half new songs, which is more than my average. Many of my songs are intended to be children's songs, but not all of them turn out that way. Some are meant to be sung by Bubbleheads, our singing group at Rapp Nature Camp. Normally we perform our songs at an Open House on the last day of camp. We always practice and learn to sing our camp songs by memory—no cheat sheets (inevitably held up in front of our faces, or diverting our gazes downwards) are allowed.

After last year's camp, I promised our campers a new Bubbleheads song for 2020. This is it. It was inspired by a stretch of the upper Hazel River where we spend a lot of time at camp. In spite of all of this season's restrictions and precautions and false starts, we did manage to have a magical session of camp late this summer. But our abbreviated session of five half-days—shortened even more to four by the threat of Isaias—did not allow time to work on a new song.

Like the river in this song, all songs tell a story. They are meant to be shared, and sung, and sung together. So permission is hereby granted for anyone to sing or share this one in any form whatsoever. Some experimentation will reveal that it can be sung in rounds in at least two configurations.

At least I think it can. I can only sing one part at a time and, to date, no one else has sung or even heard it sung at all."

Everyone's River

- Cyt label 2020 -

1. **Em Em/D D/G D/GG**
Em Em Always singing
D D Sing without verse

Em Em Always speaking
D B Speak without words

G D For-ever
G G flowing — For-

G D ever flowing
G G Never going

G D Never going a-
B B way —

G D Never going a-
Em Em way —

G D { Never going a-
Em Em way — }
G D GG

2. **Em Em** All the colors
D D Silver blue white
Em Em Colors of trees
D B Rocks and the sky

G D All colors
G G Shining — a

G D Faraway journey a
G G Yearning to carry

G D Carry my story
B B Far away

G D Far to the
Em Em Sea —

G D { Far to the
Em Em Sea — }

G D GG

3. **Em Em** Everyone's river to
D D No one belong I

Em Em Follow my path the
D B Earth is my home

G D Follow my
G G Path — with

G D Creatures that dwell a
G G Yearning to tell

G D Tell my story
B B Far away

G D Far to the
Em Em Sea —

G D { Far to the
Em Em Sea — } **G D G**

♩ = 72 Everyone's River

Janet Kerig

"When my annual arts & crafts camp at Hearststone School was cancelled in June I was initially relieved because of my fears about the Corona virus. But I love working with children and this cancellation made for a big hole in my life. So when the opportunity came to work at CCLC summer camp (thanks to my grant from the Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund) I was ready and more than willing!"



"It's been a great experience working with these creative children --- making felt balls & beaded jewelry, flying silk parachutes, watercolor painting, hammering plant prints on cotton bandanas."



"And the collaboration with CCLC has been wonderful because of their great outdoor spaces that make distancing possible, plus their helpful staff & faculty that leave me to do what I do best. It's been so good to get back to creating art with the children!"



Our mailing address is:

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Questions, thoughts: email covidart@raac.org