

Art in the Time of Covid

August 28 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.

Barbara Dalton a story of loss, volume II

"My husband, Ed, and I are probably not known to many of you. We had decided to find a house in Rappahannock county back in 2013 and were the first to look at Jeanne Drevas's house on Potter's Ridge. I immediately bonded with Jeanne, and the house, and we bought it."

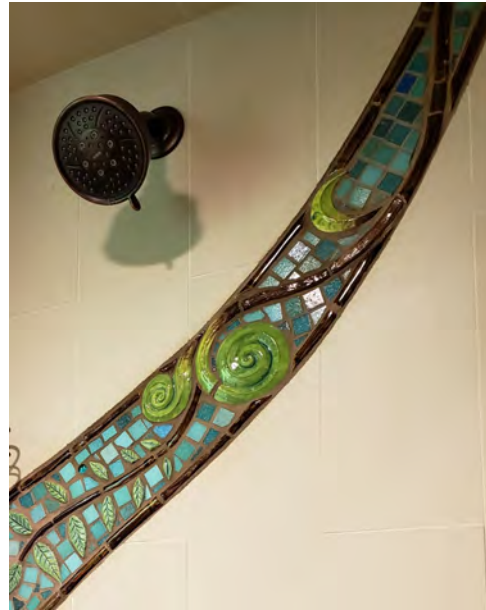


"I personally felt like a custodian of the house that was hand made by Jeanne. We eventually made some additions and changed some things about Jeanne's chef d'oeuvre...making it more our own."



"Brian Compton went into the woods and prickers to find over 40 deformed saplings to construct the railing around the loft over the living room, it was a masterpiece, and continued Jeanne's aesthetic."

"Being an artist myself, I made a mosaic for the bathroom. Finally installed it with Jeanne's help along with Jim Racer."

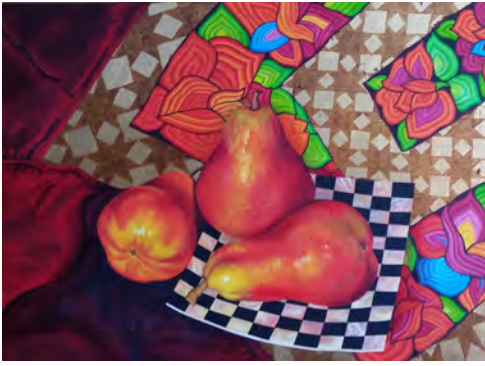


The whole little house and studio and grounds were a labor of continuing love – handcrafted log beds, wood slab bar, other creations...

Sadly, all was lost in the conflagration of July 22, 2020, when lightning started the house on fire, and she burned to the ground."

Over the years we had met many artists at the RAAC's Fall Art Tour and collected with delight from these local artists.

We are devastated by the loss of so many individual artistic expressions... pieces by Jeanne herself, Nina Moore, Darien Reece, Rosabel Goodman-Everard, Tom Mullany, Linda Tarry, Benita Gowen, Sharon Zarambo, Heidi Morf, Janet Kerig ..."



"My art found a home in our house as well, and many pieces were lost."



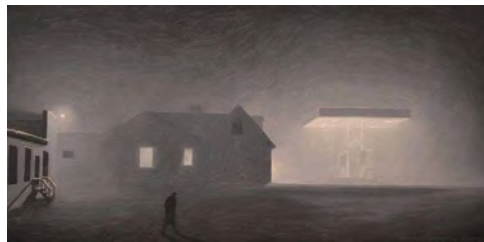
Tom Mullany

"I lost these pieces in the fire ...

I've had works lost in other fires at other collectors' homes, murals destroyed by renovations, and sculptures and paintings lost to thieves, so I've been through this thought process before.



All I can do is keep working, try not to worry about tomorrow, and enjoy life today! "



It's nowhere near losing a loved one or a friend, but is a great reminder that our earthly lives are transient and that even attempts at immortality, through the creative process, are futile.





Darien Reece



"Three of my pieces burned; 2 paintings and a shrine. My grief took me by surprise and left me flattened."



"A week ago, in an effort to get a grip, I began to paint about it. I started the first of a 'Lost Art' series. Here's the first one. There's a sea of fire, as a woman carries away one of the lost paintings, claiming it for herself - 'Mine!'."

After the first painting, my dark grief-cloud began to lift. Now I feel that these lost images are not entirely lost they live in my new paintings - and that makes me feel pretty good."



Rosabel Goodman-Everard



"I was shocked to hear that Jeanne Drevas' magical house had burned down. I had gotten to know Ed and Barbara during a RAAC Art Tour visit to my studio, where they bought the painting. They came back another time and we got along so well. When I heard of the fire, I reached out - in an old fashioned way, by snail-mailed message, in an envelope with a stamp. I wrote it on the postcard I had printed of that particular painting. Barbara responded in kind. Ed sent me a long email."

My sadness is not because I 'lost my painting', my sadness is for Ed and Barbara's loss and grief, which is much more profound than the destruction of the painting. The painting is and always will be part of me. So when I reached out to Ed and Barbara I made a pledge to them, that I would make another painting just like it, no cost. In the end, strange as it may sound, the destruction of the painting is actually bringing me joy. Joy because I can paint it again, and joy I can do at least something for Ed and Barbara."



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Questions, thoughts: email covidart@raac.org