

ROOTS ENTWINED Julia White and Steven White

The romantic view of the artist is that of a tormented soul driven on a solitary pursuit, toiling away alone, while their creations go neglected or misunderstood by others. One instantly thinks of Vincent van Gogh's poverty and madness or Paul Cézanne traipsing about Provence muttering to himself with canvas under arm. But this need not be the case as the companionship and mutual support between artists Julia White and Steven White attests.

Having met while studying art at Queens University, their individual art practices are at the very core of their relationship, so that now they share not only their lives, but a studio as well. This shared space, as well as values, provides them each with the freedom to pursue their own unique paths and styles, while certain elements silently and gently cross-pollinate what the other is doing. Their roots share a common soil, so that the diversity which blossoms forth remains cohesive like the flora of any given biosphere.

Julia White's installation, *Forest of Columns*, comprises a selection from her continually evolving collection of light sculptures. In her own words these luminous columns are "woven out of steel, textiles, vines, cordage and twines. The surface of each column is like an outer skin that, when illuminated, reveals an intricate array of networks like the patterns of root systems, tree branches and vines, as well as the neural and arterial pathways of the human body." Their gently pulsing lucency recalling the quiet breath of the forest, the throbbing of the heart, the rise of sap in the trees and the course of blood through one's own veins.

Integrating as it does the collage sensibility of Robert Rauschenberg with the rusted grace of the objects found in an abandoned barn, Steven White's work on the other hand could be referred to as "rustic Pop." Combining printed images, wooden surfaces weathered with paint, together with found

and constructed objects, his wall pieces possess a warmth and familiarity, and give one the sense of having endured the ravages of time, use and the very elements of nature.

Yet as different as Steven and Julia's artwork is from the other's, seen together one can't help but sense that they spring from a common ground, their roots and branches entwining to create an organic whole.

- Michael Tweed

Julia White and Steven White both hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Queen's University in Kingston. Steven White's work was shown in solo and group exhibitions in Canada and the USA, and received media attention from the Toronto Star, Canadian Art, CBC Radio, amongst others. His work can be found in many private and corporate collections such as Bank of Montreal, Sun Life Insurance and National Bank of Canada. Julia White has exhibited her work in Ontario, BC and the USA. Her Forest of Columns has been shown in varying configurations, most recently at the Interior Design show in Toronto, January 2014.

Opening Reception:

Saturday, March 29, 2 - 4

On display until

Sunday, May 11

Kristina Maus: A Moment in Time

Nature and landscape painter Kristina Maus works in finely detailed acrylics, watercolours and pencil drawings. She has used her creativity and her technical prowess to illustrate seven books, to teach art for 24 years, and to produce a body of work that celebrates her passion for the natural world. Now retired, Maus has had more time to devote to forest walks on her Brant Township property, to hiking along the Bruce Trail, and to exploring country roads throughout Bruce County. In turn, connecting with nature in this way inspires her paintings of flowers, foliage, rocky shores, and the changing seasons of

rural Ontario.

Maus records these treasures with her camera, using the photographic studies later as reference in her studio. Merging her formidable drawing skills with her reverence for her subject matter, it is the emotional impact of this connection to nature that Maus captures in her painting. A birch tree illuminated by the winter sun, or the quiet eternity of a lake's blue surface, strike deep chords for audiences that share Maus's love for the land.

By capturing and preserving precious moments in nature's fleeting cycles, Maus honours the bounty of beauty that surrounds us. For her, a painting is most successful when it inspires viewers to see the essence of the places and moments that she records and form their own appreciation of nature's profound gifts.

Why the Literary Arts Matter

Sunday, April 13 at 4pm

April 2014 marks the 16th National Poetry Month in Canada. This year's Words Aloud Artistic Director, Hazel Lyder (sometimes writer and poet and oftentimes reader), will deliver a talk "Why the Literary Arts Matter & How to Live a Life." With reference to the works of various Canadian and Irish writers, she will tell both a very personal story and a universal one about the value of books and reading and how they inform our lifelong journey of becoming.

Admission: A minimum \$5 donation is recommended. Anyone who makes a donation of \$10 or greater will have their name entered into a book draw. There will also be a silent auction.

The funds raised will assist the Words Aloud Festival to fulfill its mandate to bring the best writers and performers in the literary arts to Grey County.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, March 27 at 7pm

Gallery members are invited to attend our AGM and elect a new Board of Directors and/or stand for nomination. If you are not a current member and wish to participate you can join the Gallery's membership online: www.durhamart.on.ca/support.php, or you can purchase a membership at the door. Be a part of the Gallery's future, get involved!

Put Your Knowledge to the Test

The Gallery is hosting its first Trivia Night, Friday, April 25th starting at 7:30 pm at the Durham Town Hall. Teams of 4 to 10 people will compete for fun and bragging rights. Entry fee is \$125 per team unless your team has at least one gallery member: the cost then is \$100.

For more information and to register, contact the gallery at 519-369-3692 or Nancy at nancy.ellis@durhamart.on.ca Hurry! Space is limited.

Looking For Your Great Ideas!

You are invited to share all your fundraiser ideas. We will be brainstorming at the Gallery Saturday morning April 5, from 10:00 - 11:00 and Wednesday evening April 9, 6:30 - 7:30. RSVP to nancy.ellis@durhamart.on.ca or just drop in. See you here/then.

The Durham Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support of its members, volunteers and patrons as well as the Phil Lind Foundation at Aqueduct, Germania Mutual Insurance, and Scotiabank.



The Municipality
of West Grey *West Grey*



Tuesday - Friday 10 - 5, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 1 - 4, plus: Thursday 7 - 8
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