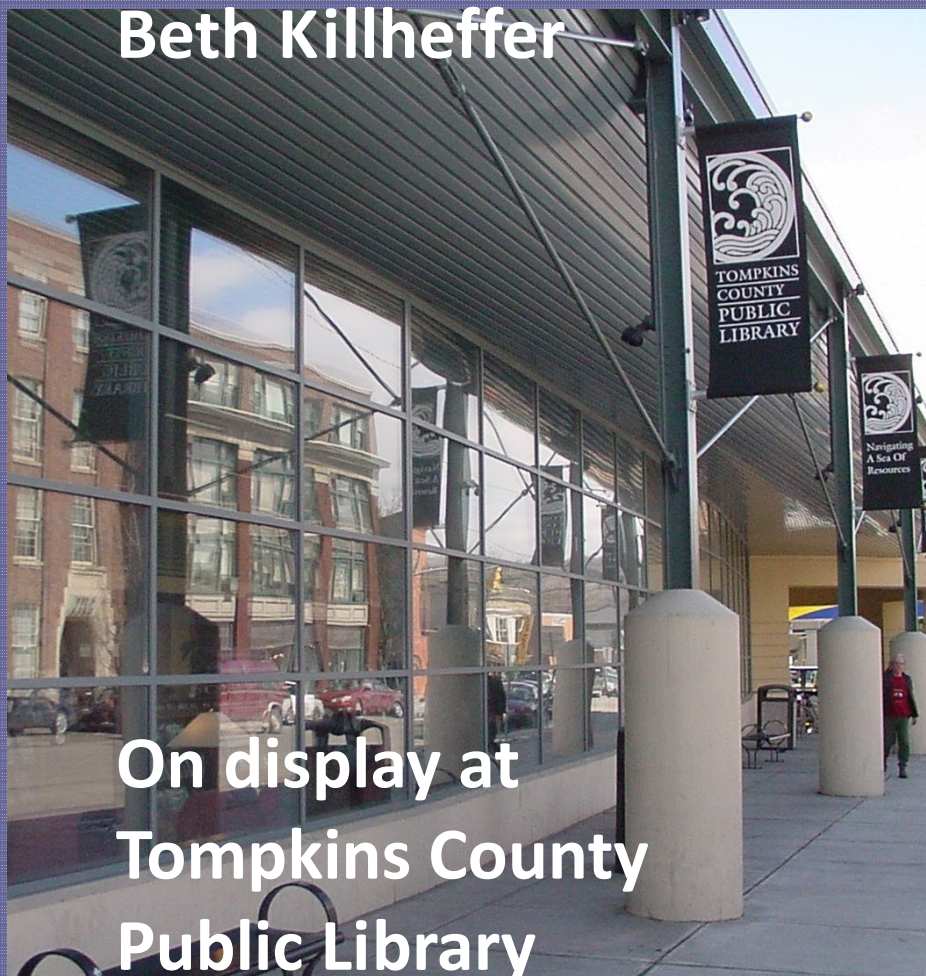


Art and the Librarian

Curated by
Beth Killheffer



On display at
Tompkins County
Public Library

April 1—May 30, 2009



Art exhibits at Tompkins County Public Library are made possible in part by grant support to the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation from the Community Arts Partnership, and additional financial support from the Brooks Family Foundation.



Art and the Librarian
Curated
By
Beth Killheffer



Photograph of the Library
By
Terry Harbin
AV Aide, Technical Services

Art and the Librarian

Curated by

Beth Killheffer

**On display at Tompkins County Public Library
April 1 through May 30 2009**

Participating Artists

Jan Aquirre
Frank Bocek
Tom Burns
Tom Cannon
Lawrence Carey
Vicki Chiment
Debbie Collier
Kelly Doolittle
Diana Kenyon
Beth Killheffer
Akiko Nishimura
Aaron Nye
Barbara Page
Marie Quick
Diana Radford
Ann Rhodin
Rosie Rice
Marcy Rosenkrantz

Curator's Statement

When I was asked to curate this exhibit I was admittedly reluctant. It would be an experience completely outside my comfort zone as a solitary "closet artist".

I've been making patchwork and quilting, a little or a lot, since 1959. My father, a chemist and perennial graduate student, taught me early on that girls could do math, too. This attitude was not common in the 1950's. I learned to love math, especially geometry and the visibly obvious manifestations of mathematics in naturally occurring forms all around us every day. Patterns and color are my passion!!

I went to art school in the late 1960's and early 1970's, already an experienced stitcher even before the art major, and then worked as an engineers' drafter in Chicago from 1975 till moving to Ithaca in 1982 in an attempt to get back closer to artwork. Always patchwork was active in the "background" behind a job (or multiple jobs), family (near and far) and all of the minutia that makes up most of the middle part of an ordinary life. I usually had the "steady job" that could sustain a meager life while the musician/artist mate brought in the spending cash. It was a common and effective arrangement. Meanwhile I kept quilting, had some pieces up in local guild shows, but never gave one thought to curating exhibits: my own retrospective in some ill-defined future at best.

However, I began thinking about the possibility. Finally, my curiosity won out over my trepidations; I had to answer the question "what were other library denizens creating?"

I suspect that the curator of an exhibit usually has some sort of projection of how the show should look. In this case, I tried not to form any pre-conceived notions. I called it "Art as a Second Language" to myself to characterize this work as not-in-the-line-of-employment-at-the-library. This is not to be confused as a lack of standards. In fact, high standards have been evident in all of the work submitted. I have not even found myself in the uncomfortable position of refusing submittal for poor quality work.

I wanted to present to artwork of library staff from as wide a variety of positions as possible – both salaried and volunteer – here at Tompkins County Public Library and at other Finger Lakes Library System libraries - and to show how abundantly talented and multi-faceted we are. Thanks to my workmates who constantly amaze me I have been able to do this.

A library is indeed far more than just books.



Jan Aguirre

Training Coordinator
Finger Lakes Library System
Ithaca, NY

Jan Aguirre, a local photographer, grew up on West Hill in Ithaca and her home grown love of the area is reflected in her photographs.

“I love this area,” says Jan, “and there’s an abundance of natural beauty everywhere, waterfalls, gorges, flowers, hills and valleys are my favorites.”

Most of Jan’s photographs are local but she loves to travel and her camera is always with her.

“My Dad was a photographer and as kids we were forced to sit through slide after slide of flowers and trees and birds, so I find it ironic that a lot of my photographs now include close ups of flowers and trees and birds, and yes I force my family to look at each and every one. I’m sure my Dad is laughing his head off in heaven right now.”

ITHACA FALLS
\$35

VAN DORNS ROAD IN THE FALL
\$35

THE 3 SEASONS OF TAUGHANNOCK
FALLS
\$40

CORNELL PLANTATIONS
\$60

NIAGARA FALLS, NY
\$60

SUNFLOWER
\$35

COVERED BRIDGE IN BATH, NEW
HAMPSHIRE
\$35

MONARCH ON PURPLE CONEFLOWER
\$60

FALL ROAD
\$35

BIRD ON DRAINPIPE
\$30

RUDBECKIA GOLDEN GLOW
\$25

CENTRAL PARK PERFORMER, NYC
\$40

SIGN OF THE TIMES NEW YORK CITY
\$50

MIRROR SCULPTURE IN NEW YORK CITY
\$40

NEW YORK CITY STREET SCENE
\$50

SUNFLOWER
\$35

WATERLILIES
\$30

BIRCH TREES IN FALL
\$40

ANEMONE
\$45

PRETTY IN PINK
\$40





Frank Bocek

Business Manager
Finger Lakes Library System

I have been working in stained glass since 1975. I now take classes in drawing and painting to enhance my skills as an artist. The pastel *Artist's Study* is my first painting since studying with Carrie Dru Tornatore of Newark Valley

ARTIST'S STUDY
Pastel on Paper
Not for Sale

SUSQUEHANNA SUNRISE
Photograph
\$100 (prints available unframed)



Tom Burns

Senior Library Clerk, Technical Services
Tompkins County Public Library

Tom Burns has worked as a poet, a playwright, a mixed-media sculptor and a painter for the last 35 years. "Anything," he says, "to avoid my true duty as the illustrator of my own 25 original characters."

THE HOLY FAMILY (after Raphael)
Oil, latex, tempura on canvas

DESERT SUNSET
Oil, latex, tempura on canvas

ANIMAL
Oil, latex, tempura on wood



Tom Cannon

Tompkins County Facilities

Tom really appreciates the opportunities he has during his job cleaning the library to view the art exhibits. It has resulted in him taking up painting himself. After six classes with local artist Paul McMillan Tom was persuaded to exhibit one of his first oils.

NIGHTSHADE – HAY BALE IN MOONLIGHT

Oil on Canvas

NFS

Lawrence Carey

Librarian III

Tompkins County Public Library

For many years I have been a musician and artist and have created works in ceramics, stained glass, wood, leather, and multi-media art. I find that it is a joy to express my creativity through art and music, and that self expression through art is a means for me to convey how I view the many variations of our world from my own unique perspective.

EAST

Black walnut, padauk and teak wood

Not for sale

THE MISSING LINK

Black walnut wood

Not for sale

WARM SUMMER DAY

Cherry wood

Not for sale





Debbie Collier

Librarian
Tompkins County Public Library

My family and I have vacationed in Cape Cod since I was young. The sunsets on the Cape are breath taking! Each year we take many photos to remind us of the beauty of the beach and the serenity of our time spent watching the waves, birds and sunsets.

DENNIS SUNSET I
Photography

DENNIS SUNSET II
Photography



Vicki Chiment

Library Clerk
Tompkins County Public Library
Embroidery – Crewel work

PSALM 118:24
Embroidered Hardanger Cloth

CONSUMMATUM EST
(It is Finished)
Cotton Blend Fabric

THE ENTOMBMENT
(detail of a 14th Century reliquary)
Embroidery on cotton blend fabric
ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
Cotton blend fabric

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Chasuble and Stole
Linen with Embroidery



Kelly Doolittle

Library Clerk, Circulation
Tompkins County Public Library

“I like to do collages because it is possible beautifully to express a jumble of emotions and thoughts without having to have a great talent with paints or pencils!

“I've always liked to draw - was an art/music major in school - but I don't have the talent to express all that I want to the way I can with collage. It is a wonderful outlet for emotions. I wish I had more time for it. Maybe if I ever get to retire....!”

LIFE'S LITTLE MYSTERIES
Collage

MARRIED, WITH CHILDREN
Collage



Diana Kenyon

Library Clerk, Technical Services
Tompkins County Public Library

Diana Kenyon has enjoyed painting since childhood. The paintings she is exhibiting here have as their inspiration the theme of spring.

She has exhibited her work over the last fifteen years in many public showings throughout Tompkins County.

SPRING SERIES # I to # VII
Acrylic on canvas



Beth Killheffer

Senior Library Clerk, Circulation
Tompkins County Public Library

Beth has a degree in fine arts but is a self-taught quilter. She has been sewing since she was six years old and quilting since around 10 years old. Quilting is the perfect method of expression for her love of color and pattern. She has moved into the realm of “Art quilts” in the last couple of years and hopes someday to retire to a “second career” as a full-time quilter.

WISTERIA DIAMOND-IN-THE-SQUARE

Machine Pieced and Quilted

Fleece Backed

“Diamond-in-the-Square” is a classic Amish pattern. Of course they would never use these fabrics! The use of deep, saturated hues is an Amish tradition that I love.

WISTERIA “WEAVE”

Machine Pieced and Quilted

This pattern CAN'T be original; it's a phenomenon of nature, but I don't remember ever seeing it in a book. This piece is the first one of a series I've done turning the squares “on point”. I like the look of it so I've made several more.

CARDINAL RUNNER

Machine Pieced & Quilted

I've been bitten by the “Table Runner Bug”. They are small enough to finish quickly. (At Christmas I made squads of them in all different sizes all with points on the ends.) They're more challenging to hang but there is a way.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Machine Pieced &

Quilted

This piece is the answer to a couple of “What if...?”s. I wanted to frame the central fabric but didn't want to cut it down the way square on point must be; too much fabric would have to be removed. So, why not begin with a square in the middle and go to the diamond-in-the-square from there? It just grew and took on a life of its own after that. Included are narrow flanges at the edges of the central square and repeated at the outside edges. There are also two different patterns done by the “Paper Foundation Piecing” method (the ones with all the tiny pointed pieces) and quite a lot of newly-learned “free-motion” quilting.

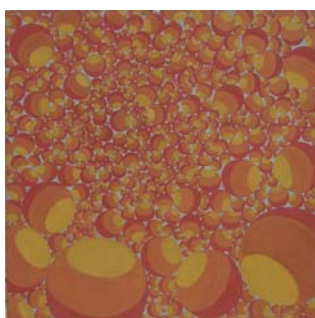


Akiko Nishimura

Library Page
Tompkins County Public Library

My grandmother sews Japanese kimono and teaches how to make them too. She helped me with this piece. It is made up of 100 different silk scraps selected from the many she has accumulated over the years.

100 PIECES
Wall hanging
Silk Kimono Scraps



Aaron Nye

Library Page
Tompkins County Public Library

In my art, I strive for the profound yet accessible. My focus is on the medium at hand and to improvise a process. Devoid of meaning at conception, the pieces take on life as a child develops a personality over time, influenced by geography, political climate and social circumstances. I let materials and process drive the work and allow concept to emerge within.

UNTITLED (Spheres), 2007
Milk paint on hardboard

UNTITLED (Everything), 2007
Pigment on hardboard (snapped lines)

UNTITLED (Weight), 2004
Wood block print



Barbara Page

Trustee

Tompkins County Public Library

www.barbarapagestudio.com

The immediate effect of engaging the throttle for my first solo flight was a rush of adrenalin. An inept landing back on earth brought on the metamorphosis from my role as student to stunt pilot. The world turned upside down and opened wide my view of the future. I had become an “I” with an eye. Learning to fly was the catalyst for my artistic ambitions.

Aerial perspective, along with mapping and scale jumping, is a recurring theme in my work. The oil paintings in the Dwindraft series superimpose agricultural patterns on natural topography. Random brushstrokes lie below the color fields in uneasy proximity. What these paintings ask is “Where am I and how do I know?” We are suspended at an altitude where the neighborhood no longer looks familiar but not so high as to resolve the altered terrain into the abstract features of maps. It is easy to lose your bearings in this zone between the general and the particular.

Aviators call navigation without instruments or a flight plan flying by the seat of your pants. As an artist I choose to lose myself in unfamiliar territory and rely on obsessive curiosity to configure my route through time and space. I have arrived at many places I never expected to go and only in retrospect is it possible to figure out how I got there. This particular body of work is a metaphor for that process.

SLIPSTREAM
Oil on Canvas

DOWNDRAFT
Oil on Canvas



Marie Quick

Library Page
Tompkins County Public Library

Cross-stitch is one of the oldest forms of embroidery and can be found all over the world. In the United States, the earliest known cross-stitch sampler is currently housed at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Traditionally, cross-stitch was used to embellish items like dishcloths and household linens. It is now increasingly popular to embroider pieces of fabric just for display.

Marie enjoys cross stitching because it helps her relax. The two pieces exhibited here are from kits.



Diana Radford

Librarian
Groton Public Library

I have quilted and cross-stitched for many years and enjoy creating beautiful pieces of work to display in my home. While often considered a domestic craft, I believe fine cross-stitch and quilting can become works of art.

VEGETABLE PATCH

Cross-stitch on 28 count Jabelin fabric with rustic wood frame
Cedar Hill Pattern

LOG CABIN CHRISTMAS TREE

Various Fabrics, machine pieced and quilted
From a class at *Patchwork and Pies Quilt Shop*, MacLean, NY

ANGEL

Various fabrics, with cross-stitch
The machine meander quilting gives border texture. Design by Prairie Scholar

BE MINE

Based on a Lynette Jensen design from *A Thimbleberries Housewarming*
With machine and hand quilting.



Ann Rhodin

Volunteer, media repair
Tompkins County Public Library

I hope you enjoy my artwork as much as I have enjoyed making it.

Volunteering at the library has given me a constancy and focus in my development. Working in several different media, ranging from fabric to collage to sculptural forms, keeps me inspired.

Laughter and *Burst* are photo prints made from Ithaca Festival Parade props. The originals of *Fish Blue* and *Twin Fish* were made from a display for a summer reading program, *Splash!* held here at the library. The images displayed are photo prints.

Someday I would like to write and illustrate a children's book—probably about art!

Enjoy.

FISH BLUE

Photo print of original collage
\$100

LAUGHTER

Photo print of original Collage
\$75

BURST

Photo print of original Collage
\$75

MOON AND OCEAN

Photo print of original Watercolor
\$100

EARLY MANDALA 2

Photo print of original Collage
\$100

BATIK 6

Photo print
\$100

TWIN FISH

Photo print of original collage
\$100

EARLY MANDALA 3

Photo print of original Collage
\$100



Rosie Rice

Assistant Director,
Tompkins County Public Library

EMBROIDERED JEWELRY

I first saw an embroidered brooch in the early 70's and was inspired to try to create some of my own. I scoured catalogs and children's books looking for ideas and patterns. Flowers were the primary subject of the brooches that I found in my research. I enjoyed working with the bright colors of the flowers and the challenge of a new project.

I feel honored to be part the Tompkins County library community. Many of us are creative in our other lives and I have long wished to share this creativity with others. So I am delighted that Tompkins County Public Library is hosting this exhibit and that my work has been included.



Marcy Rosenkrantz

Trustee
Tompkins County Public Library

I have been quilting for about seven years. I like to explore the interplay of color in simple designs of quilts. I particularly enjoy making functional art - blankets, wall hangings, clothing and purses.

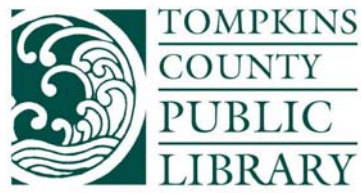
QUILTED JACKET

Cotton with Cotton Batting
Machine Quilted

SYMMETRY STUDY #1

Cotton with Bamboo Batting
Machine Pieced and Hand Quilted

This is made with 3 blocks each made with 4 squares



NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES