

THE KELLY Canvas

Quarterly
Spring 2019

artists collectors members sponsors patrons volunteers art lovers



Steampunk Art: *The Past is Now*

"Maison tournante aérienne" (aerial rotating house) by Albert Robida for his book *Le Vingtième Siècle*, a 19th-century conception of life in the 20th century. Public domain.

L.J. Christensen, 2019

In January 2019, the tornado blew in, but it couldn't blow away The Kelly. We exist and continue as a community, moving on with exciting plans. Because we were displaced in the Administrative Center by the much greater need of the Wetumpka Police Department, we have a committee currently looking for a space, turning over every possible stone in the county for possibilities. We believe we'll soon have news in that regard.



Photo of Wetumpka Police Dept. by Janice Howell

In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to the Trinity Episcopal Church for allowing us to use their beautiful building. This has allowed us to continue with **Tuesday with Kelly** speakers and given us a place for board meetings. While our permanent collection is in storage, we are continuing with exhibitions, but moving temporarily on line. **The Treasure Hunt** is a monthly on-line exhibition starting in April.

One big up-coming project is the **Tulotoma Art Trail** in conjunction with Main Street Wetumpka. We're bringing renown artist Perry Austen for a **workshop on April 25-26**, transforming the downtown to a huge art show on the 27th, and ending with a **Members' Party** and an exciting auction of the **Steampunk Art** that will be created that day.

I want to thank everyone for their patience as we forge ahead, especially our generous benefactors, advocates and sponsors. I also thank the Advisory Board for their guidance and welcome Roosevelt Lewis as the newest member of the Advisory Board. We are definitely alive and moving forward.

Sincerely,

Carol Hickman

President, The Kelly

Canvas SPRING 2019

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The Kelly has always been more than just physical space – Kelly President Carol Hickman

The goal of The Kelly is to promote the public's access to the arts, and artists' access to the public. For its first seven years, the museum and its gallery were housed on the second floor of the City of Wetumpka Administration Building. From this vantage point, the all-volunteer group produced a remarkable track record of successes and growth – and quickly outgrew the space.

Discussions about a potential a change of venue were ongoing. "We always knew we'd have to find another space," said President Carol Hickman. "Eventually." Board members explored grants and loans with the U.S Department of Rural Development for Elmore County. Other volunteers began implementing plans that will exponentially expand member and community services, and broaden the gallery's regional reach.

The events of Saturday January 19th suddenly propelled The Kelly further on its way to fulfilling its 21st century mission. President Hickman says loss of its second floor home may be "the best thing that could have happened to the Kelly."

Incubator

The City of Wetumpka, Alabama, has a long history of supporting the arts. In November 2011, Mayor Jerry Willis

secured the tradition by offering a group of local artists and collectors the unused second floor of the City Administration Building to establish an art museum.

The space became the incubator for a hybrid concept, designed to preserve legacy artworks and promote the art of working artists. The Kelly

Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery is both a *museum* to house and display permanent collections and a *gallery* for local artists to exhibit and sell their works.

"We are so grateful to the Mayor and the City of Wetumpka for providing such a fantastic space to develop our hybrid concept and grow our membership," says President Hickman. "It was the perfect incubator to bring our fresh ideas into fruition. We are so lucky to live in a city that supports the arts."



In its first seven years, The Kelly hosted 61 exhibits and displayed the art of 721 artists.

THE KELLY OUR FIRST SEVEN YEARS 2012-2018 Highlights

Hybrid museum/gallery concept (2011)

Incorporated as non-profit (2013)

Hosted **sixty-one** exhibits

Established permanent collections including *Legends and Legacies*, *Southern Spectrum*, *Outsider/Insider Art*, *American Folk Art*, *Southeastern Contemporary Art*

Displayed artwork of **721** artists

Displayed art from all over the world

Member Events

Monthly *TUESDAYS WITH KELLY* (starting in 2015)

Established Online Presence with www.thekelly.org

Education Programs for K – 12

Gallery Tours

Online Lesson Plans

High School Art Club

Donated Money and Supplies to Local Art Teachers

Established *Sylvia McConnell Art Scholarship*

Tulotoma Art Trail

Artist Market

Introduces *The Kelly Canvas* Newsletter/Magazine

Museum, Event and Exhibit Marketing Program

Sponsored Fund Raising Events with Civic Partners

A Change in the Weather

Late afternoon of Saturday January 19th a tornado destroyed the Wetumpka Police Department (WPD) building on the west bank of the Coosa River, along with historic homes, a community center, and the First Presbyterian and First Baptist churches.

On Monday the 21st, Mayor Jerry Willis called The Kelly Board Members into his office to let them know that the gallery would have to vacate the Administration Building by Friday – the space was the only one left in the city that met Federal regulations and was adequate for the needs of the WPD.



When the tornado destroyed the Wetumpka Police Department on the west banks of the Coosa, the WPD needed to relocate to a suitable location. Photo by Janice Howell.

Rapid Response

The next day, Tuesday, the Kelly team met at the museum to begin making the move. The Board immediately secured safe storage and began the meticulous job of prepping the permanent collection for the move. All exhibiting collectors and artists were notified to pick up their art by Thursday.

By Thursday, the volunteers managed to fill a 10' X 20' moving van with 130 pieces of art ready for transfer. Exhibiting artists and collectors retrieved their works by the end of day.

As the Kelly was moving out, the WPD was simultaneously moving in. "It was hectic," recalls Hickman. "Every board member helped load and unload the truck. Fortunately, we've always had great volunteers and the transition was well coordinated by all sides."

The Kelly Everywhere

The art organization's Search Committee continues its hunt for an appropriate new physical space, looking at buildings for purchase or lease. "We'll renovate, if needed," says Hickman. "More



2019 PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

KELLY TREASURE HUNT

Eight Monthly Online Exhibitions @ <https://www.thekelly.org>
April - November 2019

Landscapes, Waterscapes & Cityscapes | April | Treasure Hunt: Exhibit 1

Drawings | May | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 2

Architecture | June | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 3

Portraits & Figures | July | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 4

The Still Life | August | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 5

Nature: Flora & Fauna | September | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 6

Whimsy, Fantasy & Imagination | October | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 7

You Name It! | November | Treasure Hunt: Online Exhibit 8

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS online

Legends and Legacies

Southern Spectrum

Outsider/Insider Art: American Folk Art

Southeastern Contemporary Art

QUARTERLY KELLY CANVAS online newsletter

WETUMPKA EVENTS

Tuesdays with Kelly monthly at Trinity Episcopal Church

Plein Air Work Shop taught by Perry Austin, On April 25 & 26

Tulotoma Art Trail April 27

Making Alabama, Alabama Humanities Foundation

Artist's Market November 22 & 23

Best of the Kelly Treasure Hunt | January 13 - April 30, 2020

Physical Exhibition @ The New Kelly

administrative space has long been needed. An additional footage to rent out would help subsidize our efforts. Temporary exhibit space is also under consideration. Our goal remains to have a permanent home by end of this year.”

Meanwhile, The Kelly remains focused on broadening its local and regional base with a full slate of online and off-site events for 2019. The tornado aftermath has also hastened implementation of innovative programs already on the table. In addition to curating online exhibits and competitions, the organization is busy creating other internet opportunities for local artists and collectors to display and promote their works on a global basis.

“The Kelly will be everywhere it needs to be to better serve, grow and enhance the future of Wetumpka and its Regional Arts Community,” says President Hickman. “We are so very grateful for support from the mayor, the city, the county, our partners and sponsors, volunteers, and the people of Wetumpka. *The Kelly has always been more than just physical space.*”

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KELLY CALENDAR 2019

April 16—TWK

April 25-26—Perry Austin Workshop

April 27—Tulotoma Art Trail

April-November—Treasure Hunt Online Exhibition

May 21—TWK

June 19—TWK

November 22-23—Autumn Artist Market

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Face in the Rubble



In 2012, the First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka was readying to celebrate its 175th Anniversary. Its Pastor asked artist Steve Garst to paint a commemorative painting. "I was honored, of course," says Steve. "It was an opportunity to show gratitude for the gift of art in my life."

Six months of planning, design and painting completed the canvas. Historical accuracy was a must. When Steve pulled the cover to reveal *The Journey*, the Sanctuary was packed with celebrants. "It was a special moment in our lives," recalls wife and fellow artist Deb Garst.

Also hanging in the sanctuary building annex was Deb's painting *Words of Wisdom*. She gave the painting to to hang in the church choir room in honor of her late father. Her dad was terminally ill when *Words of Wisdom* was created.

Seven years later Deb and Steve got a call late on a cold Saturday afternoon in January – the caller urging them to "turn on the news." A twister had demolished the sanctuary and choir room of the First Presbyterian Church. "We were in shock. We hugged each other," recalls Steve. "The beautiful sanctuary gone. Our paintings lost. It was a miracle no one was killed."

That evening, scouring for victims at the demolished sanctuary, one of the first responders saw a familiar face beneath the rubble. At first, he thought he'd located a tornado victim. Tossing debris aside, searchers were relieved to see the face was not attached to a human. Their discovery was hung on a pole that once supported the church sign. Members later retrieved it.

Deb was watching tornado news coverage later that evening and suddenly called out to Steve, "Your painting, your painting!" **There on the screen, *The Journey* exhibited on a pole surrounded by devastation – apparently intact.**



Two weeks later, the church's pastor, Jonathan Yarbboro asked the Garsts to pick up the painting and do whatever was needed to clean it up. A few days after they retrieved the painting, the Garsts stopped at a Publix. Inside the store a voice called out to them. It was a taller version of the little girl who modeled for *The Journey*.

Steve told her he had something in the truck "you've gotta' see." It was the first time the girl viewed the original painting. It was the first time in seven years the artist, the model and *The Journey* were reunited. They snapped a photo of Steve with the now taller model and the painting in the parking lot.

Thirteen days after the tornado, Deb's *Words of Wisdom* was also recovered. While its mounting was damaged slightly, the painting itself is in good shape.

It is miraculous that their art survived at all, let alone unscathed. Perhaps artworks, like people, are more resilient than we think they are.



For the first time in seven years, artist, model and painting are reunited in a Publix parking lot.

Photo used by permission

--David Luck

Recovery photos copyright 2019 WSFA 12 News.

CURRENT KELLY EVENTS



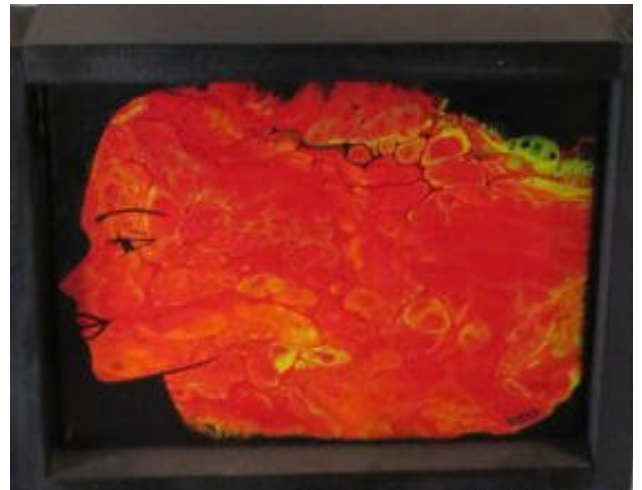
Take a Stroll on the Art Trail

Saturday, April 27

Mark **Saturday, April 27**, on your calendar! For the second year, The Kelly is bringing back the **popular Tulotoma Art Trail to downtown Wetumpka**. A couple dozen Alabama artists will be selling their original art, photos, and jewelry in booths around and inside local businesses.

Participating Businesses

To make access easier for visitors this year, all the displays will be concentrated in the downtown area with emphasis on art for adults. There will be plenty of fun watching the steampunk metal artists at work outside in Merchants Alley. Other art locations, such as The Big Fish Art Studio and Marcia Weber's Art Objects will be open, along with the Jasmine Hill Art Gallery. The Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce will have paintings and also quilt displays inside. Frios, Grumpy Dog, Coosa Cleaver, River Perk, Coosa River Craft House and Coaches Corner are participating as well, so there will be plenty of chances to take a break for a meal or a drink.



Emily Roney's "Girl on Fire"

Photo by LJ Christensen

Not to be outdone, many other downtown businesses are eagerly supporting the event, some with artists inside or just outside. You can pick up clothing or boutique items at Tapp 18 or The Market Shoppes, or even browse in King's Formals. The Yellow Daffodil Boutique is inside The Gab, which is a hair salon. Then there are Top Nails, B & B's Health Boutique, and Panda Foot and Body Massage for other body parts. You can even spruce up your pooch at The Furry Kid. (Emily Roney--see above photo-- will be there.)



Art Sale

What is for sale? What isn't! From \$10 to \$1000, you can find everything from elegant oil landscapes to funky acrylic and mixed media pieces. From local photos and rustic fish sculptures to prize-winning pastels. Rugged outdoor art to chic framed pieces for the parlor.

Kelly member Shellie Whitfield is making a special line of “steampunk” Spare Parts jewelry while Libby Christensen has sewn a selection of small original quilts, including some teeny quilt brooches. Carol Hickman has crafted some blue jean sailboats along with her beautiful oil landscapes, florals and her popular print of the Bibbs Graves Bridge. Jeanette Kempter is selling her mother’s “Southern Grandma Moses” prints. Emily Roney usually has some out-of-this-world paintings, literally of space, as well exquisite modern silhouettes and jewelry with painted pendants, and



Little and Bitty Quilts by LJ Christensen

Teresa Wamble’s prize-winning painted gourds are exceptional.

Dozens of matted or framed photos by Mit Fontaine and Libby Christensen will be available, as well as a huge variety of types and sizes of paintings by multiple artists, something for everyone’s taste and pocketbook. Those mentioned are just a small fragment of the exciting possibilities that will shine in Alabama’s biggest outside art gallery.



*“Snapped Like a Toothpick”
by LJ Christensen*



“Swayback Bridge” by Mit Fontaine

Steampunk Art Auction

The day ends with a rollicking **Members’ Party**, complete with adult refreshments and hors d’oeuvres. Awards for art and a community **“People’s Choice” Award for the Steampunk** pieces will be presented. The big draw, however, will be the auction of the steampunk metal sculptures, the proceeds of which are being donated to The Kelly and Main Street Wetumpka. The buyers are asked to let them be on display for a year, though, adding to some of the downtown ambiance. Wetumpka has added murals and this year, who knew we’d become a steampunk town? **The Kelly needs your participation, and needs you to bring us new members**, who can sign up during the party. The more, the merrier!

--Libby J. Christensen



*Steampunk sculpture, a sa
by Brett McDane*

STEAMPUNK *Industrial Gears / Mad Scientists / Victorian Corsets*

Sculptors, painters and photographers are creating works of fantastic imagination unleashed by a worldwide artistic movement called



The Projectionist by Eric Fan 2013

Steampunk. The movement was inspired by a genre of retro-science fiction that envisions what our world and society might look like today if steam technology remained our predominant power source.

In addition to Steampunk fiction, the term applies to a wide variety of art forms, neo-vintage fashions and designs that are based on aesthetics from Victorian-era fantasy literature, art nouveau design and films from the mid-20th century. Today, Steampunk influences architecture, clothing, home décor, music, movies, television and video games, as well as sculpture, illustration, painting and photography – even politics and lifestyle.

While it now asserts an international influence, it took nearly 60 years for steampunk to “percolate” above its status as an underground style.



A Slow Boil

The movement traces its beginnings to works of fantasy labeled *retro-science fiction* published during the 1960s and 70s. Retro-science fiction writers are inspired by authors like Mary Shelly, Jules Vern and H. G. Welles, who were popular in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The term *steampunk* was coined by science fiction author K. W. Jeter in 1987 to differentiate retro-science fiction from future-based *cyberpunk*: Industrial Age technology (steampunk) vs. Information Age technology (cyberpunk).

Steampunk embraces steam-powered technology that is *fantastical* and at the same time *relatable*. You can see how a steam engine works. Kids can still assemble their own Heathkit radios. Nobody makes his/her own iPhone. As art scholars Rachel Bowser and Brian Croxall put it, “the tinkering and ‘tinker-able technologies’ within steampunk invite us to roll up our sleeves and get to work re-shaping our contemporary world.”

Modern accessories like cell phones or music players can be found in steampunk outfits or settings, *after* being modified to give them the appearance of Victorian-era objects. Rachel Bowser adds that “one of steampunk’s most significant contributions is the way in which it mixes digital media with traditional handmade art forms.”



Nick Christensen in Steampunk top hat and goggles by LJ Christensen

Music came late to the party. "Steampunk did not . . . draw on music as primary source material," affirms Alex Williams in his 2018 *NY Times* article. Literature propelled the movement. Music was the last art to get on board. The last may not be the least. There are hundreds of YouTube music videos listed under "steampunk music."

The "steampunk sound" is eclectic to say the least: from industrial dance and world music to folk rock, punk, hip-hop, opera, progressive rock, barbershop and big band. Synth guru [Thomas Dolby](#) is considered one of the early pioneers of retro-futurist music. American musician Amanda Palmer said, "Thomas Dolby is to Steampunk what Iggy Pop was to Punk!"



Broad Appeal

Life stylists re-imagine the past to rebuke present/future trends and view steampunk as a social-political movement. For most fans, it's simply an escape into a fantastical world driven by steam. For those who remember images of steam-driven rocket ships (1930's *Flash Gordon*), submarines (Disney's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* from 1954) or the interior of *Dr. Who*'s 1970s TARDIS, it evokes fond remembrance.

All are inspired by the whimsical, inventive and adventurous spirit of the Age of Steam. As described by scholar Marie-Luise Kohlke, it is "the afterlife of the nineteenth century in the cultural imaginary."

--David Luck



Thomas Dolby

Gear Up

To preview the art and learn more about Steampunk before the Tutoloma Art Trail, check out these links and other references.

About Steampunk:

Bowser, Rachel A.; Croxall, Brian (2010). ["Industrial Evolution"](#) (PDF). *Neo-Victorian Studies*. Retrieved 5 March 2019

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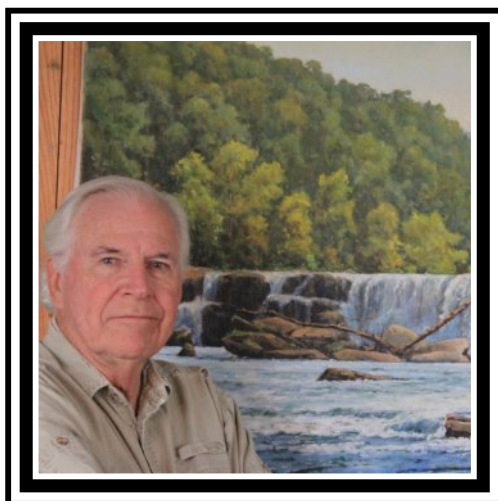
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Williams, Alex. (14 May 2018). [How Steampunk Became a Stylish Protest to the Digital Age](#). New York City: *The New York Times*

[Steampunk Fashion](#) | [Steampunk Art](#) | [Steampunk Music Videos](#) | [Thomas Dolby](#)

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Perry Austin—Plein Air Workshop



Perry Austin with one of his outdoor paintings.

The Kelly is making history by offering its first plein air painting workshop as part of the **Tulotoma Art Trail** in April. Prominent Alabama artist Perry Austin will lead the two-day experience in Gold Star Park.

Austin has been involved in art since he was just an anklebiter. As a child, he drew, and at age 13, he began painting with an oil set his mother gave him. Upon graduation from Auburn, he became a technical illustrator for several companies, including the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. While working for others, Austin's passion for fine art grew ever brighter. Then, in 1998, when he and his three brothers were published in *Southwest Art*, his career as a full-time, professional painter took off.

A member of the American Impressionist Society and the Oil Painters of America, Austin has published his work in a variety of publications, such as ***Southwest Art***, ***Southern Anglers' Journal***, and ***Art Collector***. His work has been represented in many exhibits and several notable collections, including those of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, AmSouth Corporation, the Callaway Collection, and the actress Linda Lavin. In addition to his studio in Sylacauga, his work is available at galleries in Birmingham, Montgomery, Opelika, Germantown, NC, and White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Austin's copious portfolio—which is available for viewers' delight at ***Perryaustinfineart.com***—features lush landscapes that invite you in. Adept painting technique is evident in Austin's paintings, but composition is key to their success. As Austin advises fellow painters in *Scribblings from the Box Turtle Farm* on his website, "The intent should be making the painting reflect what you feel about the subject, not a copy" of a photograph or plein air scene.

If you'd like to learn more about composition and improve your landscape technique, consider joining Perry Austin's workshop April 25-26. For more information, visit thekelly.org. (Scroll down the left side of the screen, and click *Plein Air Workshop*.) The cost of the workshop is now \$250. To see if spaces are still available, contact Carol Hickman at (334) 391-5090 or cdurenhickman@gmail.com.



"Morning Okra Blossoms"
by Perry Austin

--Carla C. Luck



Perry Austin's painting of an Appalachian stream.

View more of Perry Austin's paintings at:
<https://www.facebook.com/PerryAustinFineArt/photos/>

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The next Kelly exhibition is a paradox--both entirely unique in its innovation and an assemblage of multiple exhibitions in its entirety. It is both on line and not. It is by a defined group, yet totally individual. It has begun already, but you can still join in.

It is the Kelly's **Treasure Hunt**, a series of exhibitions with different contents and mediums. According to the prospectus, it's "A year-long series of online exhibitions focusing on specific subject matters, culminating in a 2020 physical exhibition." Artists are asked to commit to the group and agree to enter at least FOUR of the EIGHT online exhibitions occurring between April and November of this year. Next year, a physical exhibition is planned.

While that explains the online/offline line, what about the contents? During the inception of this idea, Hope Brannon explained, "Most artists try different mediums," and by forcing them out of their comfort zone in both medium and typical preferred content, we may indeed find some hidden treasure in the sense of talent and treasures. Each artist may choose a medium but must adhere to the given themes, with up to three entries for each:



- 1-Landscapes, Waterscapes & Cityscapes
- 2-Drawings
- 3-Architecture
- 4-Portraits
- 5-Still Life
- 6-Nature: Flora & Fauna
- 7-Whimsy, Fantasy & Imagination
- 8-Any category NOT already listed!

By leaving our comfort zones, we may discover hidden treasures.

Rumor has it that a certain quilter is planning a castle for the architecture and a photographer has an idea for an homage to Seuss (wonder who?) Does anyone draw with crayons? How about a wooden flower? Just to make it more challenging, they are looking for work that hasn't been displayed much or at all in this region and a variety of techniques. In other words, innovation, creativity, beauty, and technique are all important.

Although the first call for commitment is past, this challenge is still wide open. It is free to any Kelly member (or any adult who agrees to become a Kelly member).

--Libby J. Christensen

All the details and entry form are available at <https://www.thekelly.org/2018-showcase-central-alabama> and the first deadline is not until the end of April. So you are hereby challenged to join the Treasure Hunt and go for the gold!

Jill Friedman, “Outsider Art” Collector

Two years ago, Jill Friedman left Oakland, CA, and landed in Montgomery. She brought a prodigious collection of art, which reflects her own “outsider” sensibility that gravitates toward detail, color, and “broader horizons.”



Outsider art, for Jill, comes from

“Outsider Art” from Jill Friedman’s collection.

artists who are self-taught or come from communities not normally afforded consideration by the formal art world.

It makes sense, then, that many of her pieces were created by people she met informally in the Bay area: street artists, prisoners, persons with developmental disabilities. Each of these artists has “an incredible story,” and Jill has developed relationships with many of them.

A unique part of her collection comes from her travels abroad: dolls, dolls, and more dolls. Jill discovered an affinity for handmade, female dolls on her first trip out of the country to Mexico in 1976. Since then, she has bought and been given dolls—80-85 of them—from all over the

world, but mostly from south of the U.S. border. Compared to traditional, porcelain dolls, these soft, handmade dolls have “a whole other spirit.”



Some of Jill Friedman’s art objects.

A unique part of her collection comes from her travels abroad: dolls, dolls, and more dolls.

Art, for Jill, “brings to the surface the ability to create bridges between people who might otherwise not be friends.” Please join us at **Tuesdays With Kelly on April 18 when Jill Friedman will share her experiences** “reaching across cultures” with art. She will also share some of her eclectic collection, including her own self-taught photography.

--Carla C. Luck



"Outsider Art" from Jill Friedman's collection. Photos by permission.

Anna Chappelle, Fiber Artist

Anna Chappelle's love affair with textiles began early while watching her grandmother tat lace. Her "fiber arts journey," as she puts it, picked up speed in 2012 when she started knitting. Since then, she has avidly sought new ways of creating with fiber, such as spinning, weaving, and hand-dyeing yarn. Anna's fiber arts journey is guided by what she calls her "Yarn Philosophy." That is, "fiber is a valuable source of creating peace and calm within yourself, a way to connect with others, and create a deeper sense of community."



Anna Chappelle by permission

Anna finds inspiration for her creations from a plethora of sources, including other artists and designers, galleries, museums, and social media, and she's fond of textiles from around the globe. When she constructs a piece, she lets the "yarn do the talking, telling me which pattern is better suited for the color and its use." Anna is a native of Knoxville with 10 years experience as a museum professional. She, her husband, and their "two bright and adventurous little boys" moved to Wetumpka in 2017 when her husband accepted a position with the Alabama Historical Commission.

Please help us welcome this relative newcomer on **May 21 when Anna Chappelle will speak at Tuesdays With Kelly**. We'll travel a little way on her fiber arts journey—when she shares her own work, as well as fiber artifacts from her family's history, and elaborates on her "Yarn Philosophy."

--Carla C. Luck

She has avidly sought new ways of creating with fiber, such as spinning, weaving, and hand dyeing yarn.



Anna Chappelle's luscious yarn knitted. Photo by permission.

June 19

Adriane Duvall, Art Educator

She works in oil, acrylic, and pastel—but “kids are my favorite medium.” So says **Adriane Duvall, art teacher at Wetumpka High School.** Now in her twentieth year of teaching, Adriane has taught for two at the high school.



Adriane is a “fierce advocate,” in her words, for art in the schools. She believes art education to be crucial for young people’s development. For one thing, it offers rich opportunities for creative problem solving. For another, art classes can help budding artists learn valuable lessons: “work all the time,” and “be prepared to fail” because “that’s how you grow.”

Please join us at **Tuesdays With Kelly on June 18 when Adriane Duvall—artist, art teacher extraordinaire, advocate for art in schools, world traveler—talks to us** about art education and shares her students’ work. Be prepared to be overjoyed for art students at Wetumpka High School!

-Carla C. Luck

Adriane is a
“fierce advocate,”
in her words, for
art in the
schools.



Artwork by Adriane Duvall. Used by permission.

Winning art pieces by Adriane Duvall's students at Wetumpka High School



Mural at Wetumpka H.S. by Adriane Duvall's students.



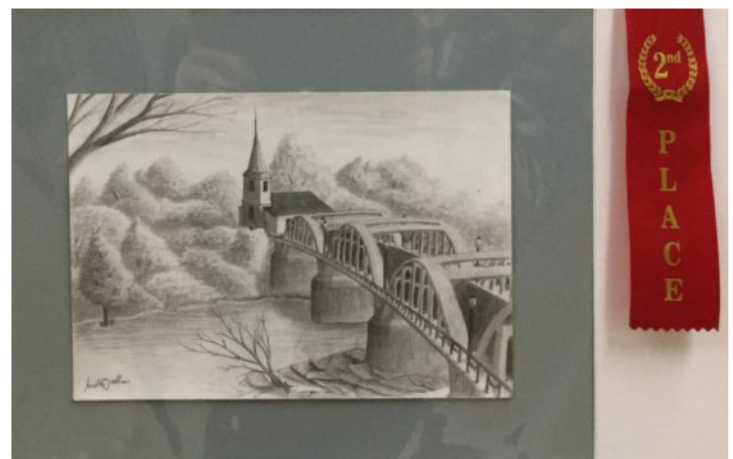
Best of Show by Adriane Duvall's student.



Carving by Adriane Duvall's student.



Painting by Adriane Duvall's student.



Drawing by Adriane Duvall's student.

Artwork used by permission.

Bless Your Heart: Creating a Floral Wreath

A group of interested viewers watched **Melanie Evans give tips on the art of wreath-making during February's Tuesday with Kelly**. Bunches of flowers from white hydrangeas to yellow tulips, orange ranunculus and violet larkspur were almost magically transformed into a stunning square wreath. Ms. Evans and her daughter Amy Hibbs own a charming home décor shop in Eclectic, where they will make a wreath while you wait or let you buy the wonderful lifelike RealCut flowers to make your own. She shared many great tips:

- Choose good quality flowers in natural colors
- Explore different sizes and shapes of wreaths
- Select flowers in at least 3 distinct sizes
- Consider the background color of the door
- Start with greenery, then largest flowers first, working down to smallest
- Apply the hot glue to the floral stem, not the wreath
- Don't put a flower on straight—bend it a little to be more realistic
- Have some pieces sticking out in front as well as sides to add dimension
- Instead of a bow, try grouping several large blooms for a focal point
- Embellish with birds or nests (with eggs) if desired



RealCut flowers used by Bless Your Heart.



Ms. Evans, an experienced florist, explains that she also loves to decorate. They turned a 100-yr-old hardware store into a shop and work room. Besides floral arrangements, they also sell wall art, tabletop items, and even some jewelry. Find them on 20 Main Street in Eclectic, where there's also a coffee shop, Mexican restaurant, and the old Strickland's fabric store, which has reopened.

--Libby J. Christensen

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White hydrangeas, yellow tulips, orange ranunculus and violet larkspur were almost magically transformed into a stunning square wreath.



Photos by LJ Christensen

Kelly Fitzpatrick

Connections

Family Homes and Gardens

by June Carpenter

It is easy to imagine Kelly and Isabel enjoying a leisurely stroll through their gardens . . .



Image from "Kelly Resting at The Dixie Colony, 1941"
Watercolor by Mildred Nungaster Wolfe / KFMG Permanent Collection

John Kelly Fitzpatrick's view from his North Autauga Street home in Wetumpka (ca. 1830) was one that looked east down the middle of Tuskeena Street. It would be the house where he would draw his last breath and it was seven blocks away from his birthplace at 207 West Tuskeena. Although he was well-traveled, his roots were firmly planted in the West Wetumpka neighborhood.



Enslens/Carpenter Camellia

His cousin, Isabel Jones Enslens, built a home on the north adjoining property at 205 Autauga Street.

The cousins were great friends and shared similar interests. They built brick walks between the two properties so that they could enjoy daily strolls through their gardens. Kelly loved camellias, which were depicted in his paintings. Hydrangeas, Jasmine, magnolias, climbing roses, dogwoods and daffodils were a few of the other plantings that graced the property. He was not a fan of pruning, preferring to allow everything in the garden to grow as tall as possible. He once adamantly told an art pupil that he wanted the camellias to grow as high as his house and that he would never cut them.

Although the Kelly Fitzpatrick house no longer stands on Autauga Street, the home built by Mrs. Enslens (ca. 1937) has been owned by Jerry and June Carpenter since 1987. The original bricks from the garden walks now edge the flower beds throughout the property. Other original elements are millstones and a garden wall as well as several heirloom roses, hydrangeas and camellias. In the spring, it is easy to imagine Kelly and Isabel enjoying a leisurely stroll through their gardens, discussing the events of the day.



Hydrangeas at the Enslens/Carpenter House.



The Enslens/Carpenter House was built ca. 1937

Photos by June Carpenter, 2018

More *Kelly Fitzpatrick* Connections

Below are historic photographs of the Kelly Fitzpatrick House, ca. 1830, which is no longer in existence.



Black and white photos of the Kelly Fitzpatrick home on Autauga Street in Wetumpka. Permission is granted to use the photos with the following reference:

Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator. *Kelly Fitzpatrick House, Autauga Street, Wetumpka, Elmore County, AL.* Alabama Elmore County Wetumpka, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/al0164/>.

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Portrait of an Artist: Carol Hickman

When Carol Hickman shares her love of art in conversation, it's as if she's wearing a three-dimensional canvas. A visceral reaction is elicited when watching and listening to her description of her non-traditional educational background and the impact that art has had on her life. While Carol believes that anyone who wants to can learn to paint, she feels strongly that art is a learned skill and that some instruction is always helpful.

Carol's strength in high school was geometry, and she never took an art class in high school or college. However, she believes that she did have an early introduction to art through her grandmother who taught her to sew when she was a child. This ultimately led her to a Home Economics major where she was able to continue her heritage of teaching youngsters to sew for 9 years. She then worked for Colonial Mortgage until she went to work in her husband's business in her early 50s. It was at that time that Carol finally began to take art classes from various artists in the River Region. Carol credits each one with helping her develop not only her artistic skills but also to grieve and heal following the death of her son.

Carol is quick to name oils as her favorite medium and equally as quick to reject a favorite subject. She states that she painted buildings in everything when she first started but now paints people, still life, or whatever else strikes her fancy and enjoys it all. Next on her list is to learn the art of plein air painting and mosaics.

When asked about her artistic interests other than the visual arts, she excitedly exclaimed "Gardening!" and described it as "painting with a shovel." It makes sense. Who better than a seamstress good in geometry to understand how to make all the shapes, forms, colors and textures of a garden work in harmony?

Carol has no hesitation in identifying what she hopes to accomplish in her role as president of The Kelly. Her primary goal is "to see more art in the schools" and with excitement, adds "and I would like to help that happen!" That makes even better sense. Who better than a teacher with a lifetime of growth, changes, and an aesthetic sense of creativity to cultivate that garden? We as a community would all benefit from the fruits of that labor.

--Barbara Davis



"Carol Hickman at Work" by LJ Christensen



"Heart of Dixie" and "Hydrangea Power," painted by Carol Hickman. Photos by LJ Christensen



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Big Thanks to the (Good/Great) LUCKS!

After birthing and getting the *Kelly Canvas* newsletter off to a remarkable start, creators **David and Carla Luck** are retiring from their leadership positions. They will continue to write but have turned the reins of editing over to Libby Christensen and layout to Jeff and Vanessa Royal. We are fortunate to have these able volunteers to continue the quality newsletter that we've come to expect, and we are grateful to the Lucks for the expertise and creativity they shared with the membership of The Kelly.



Carla Luck

Just who are these talented folks, you might wonder. Carla grew up in Montgomery and Birmingham but spent most of her adult life in Illinois. She attended Rhodes College, obtained her Master's degree from the University of Texas, and her Ph.D. from

Southern Illinois University. She taught teachers and school children for over 30 years and retired from Northern Illinois University.

David grew up in Michigan and graduated from the University of Illinois-Urbana. He worked as a professional writer, creative director and consultant, and was president of a Chicago marketing communications firm. Ten years ago, upon retiring, they moved to Equality and bought an 1870s house. Now they can spend more time with their creative pursuits. David is an accomplished finger-style acoustic guitarist and composer. David's recent 'folk jazz' CDs, distributed worldwide, compile early recording commissions and new works from his 60-year career. (One of his instrumentals is used as a reference track by Apple to tune its audio components.) It is captivating music!



David Luck

Carla is a painter, working primarily in oils. It was her interest in art that brought the Lucks into the KFMG fold. David and Carla share three boys and four grandchildren. We are thankful they have shared their talents with us and are especially happy that they are continuing to part of the *Kelly Canvas* staff.

--Phyllis Kennedy

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WELCOME



Roosevelt Lewis, Kelly Board of Directors

Roosevelt Lewis, an avid art collector for about 30 years, has joined The Kelly Board of Directors. His business management acumen, civic pride and love of the arts make him eminently qualified to help guide The Kelly during this time of transition as we increase our membership and broaden our mission in the coming years.

A Montgomery native, Mr. Lewis was educated in the Montgomery Public Schools. He completed his undergraduate degree in drama from Huntingdon College and a Master's Degree in Management from Troy University, Montgomery.

"We are very fortunate to have Roosevelt join our Board," says President Hickman. "He is already a great asset to our Kelly community and will be even more so in the future."

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Photo of R. Lewis by LJ Christensen