

# *The Art of Community*

## Art & Artists Catalog

September 1, 2023

**Art Exhibition & Sale at Possum's Store Art & Artisan Gallery**

914 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Criglersville, VA 22727

September 23 – October 29, 2023

Opening Reception:  
September 24, 2023  
2:00 - 5:00



*Janice Rosenberg,  
John Berry,  
Chee Kludt Ricketts,  
Tina Wade,  
Sara Schneidman,*



## The Art of **COMMUNITY**

*A Firnew Farm Artists' Circle  
Group Art Show*



**POSSUM'S STORE**  
A CURIOUS PLACE

The exhibition and sale features original works of art by 27 artists.

The Firnew Farm Artists' Circle is pleased to announce ***The Art of COMMUNITY*** Group Art Exhibition and Sale. It's a collaboration between Trish Crowe, artist and director of the Firnew Farm Artists' Circle, and Renee Balfour, artist and owner of Possum's Store Art and Artisan Gallery, and celebrates love of place and community. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The Firnew Artists have been an Art COMMUNITY for over 20 years. In those years they have inspired one another's creativity, and to the wider community they have fostered the spirit of art in the schools and the Boys and Girls Club. It has been a deeply rich and enduring relationship. What makes this community of artists so special is their diversity. They are not only painters in oil, watercolor and acrylic, photographers in digital and wetplate, fiber artists and jewelry makers but home to abstract and expressive artists as well. The artists work at the Firnew Studio and Barn in Hood, just across the mountain from Possum's Store in Criglersville. The artists were challenged to create one piece of work that would convey not only their love of place but the essence of it. Twenty seven Firnew artists will display original works of art and all art will be offered for sale.

Possum's Store is the perfect place for the exhibition. During the 19th and 20th centuries, a general store could be found in almost every community. Although many of these stores no longer exist, Possum's Store remains. Located in the village of Criglersville, Madison County, VA Possum's Store (originally McAlister's General Store, circa 1890), maintains many of the original features inside and out.

The old store has a long history as a social center for the community and has been a gathering place for many generations. Possum's Store, Art and Artisan Gallery continues that tradition. Hosting Virginia art and artisans, music events and artist workshops, Possum's Store is a gathering place and a creative center in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

## **Art Purchases**

All art is offered for sale. If interested, please send an email to Renee Balfour, Possum's Store Art & Artisan Gallery at [ReneeBalfour@ymail.com](mailto:ReneeBalfour@ymail.com) with the name of the artist, title of the artwork and your phone number.

Renee will contact you to discuss method of payment, delivery or pick up of the art, and any additional charges for mailing art via UPS.

View the Firnew Farm Artists' Website at  
<https://www.firnewfarmartistscircle.com/>

View Possum's Store Website at  
<https://www.possumsstoreva.com/>

**Lee Barker**  
***A Summer Day on the Water in Criglersville, Virginia***

Oil  
12 x 16  
\$275







**John Berry**  
***Robinson River***

Photography, Blue Glass Ambrotype

11 x 14

\$350



**Pat Brodowski**  
***Reflections of 1904***

Oil on canvas

12 x 24

\$875

Conversation, commerce, and community culture all thrive upon the porch of a town's general store. Fortunately, a photographer captured a fine day in Criglersville in 1904, from which we may compare that version of country life to our own visit here. What stories were shared long ago? What stories will arise today?





**Ramey Campbell**  
***Farm along the Hughes River***

Oil on Canvas

20 x 30

\$3,200

When one thinks about Madison County, the first thought that comes to mind, is a community of farms, and the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The scenery from Madison to the town of Sperryville is one of the most scenic areas of Virginia. "Farm along the Hughes River" depicts a farm in Etlan, Virginia at the base of Old Rag Mountain along the Shenandoah National Park



**Maria Festa Carter**  
***Bee Heaven***

Acrylic  
20 x 24  
\$425







**Ellen Copeland**  
***Bluegrass Serenade***

Oil on Canvas

48 x 30

\$950

My forever image of community was born years ago in an old country store much like this one. As a lively bluegrass band played, I witnessed a barefoot shirtless farmer in overalls walk across an empty dance floor. He held out his hand to a petite smartly dressed woman seated with her tour group. Without hesitation or a word spoken, she smiled, kicked off her sensible shoes, and got up to dance. The rest of us followed.

**Trish Crowe**  
***Graves Mill in Wonderland***

Watercolor

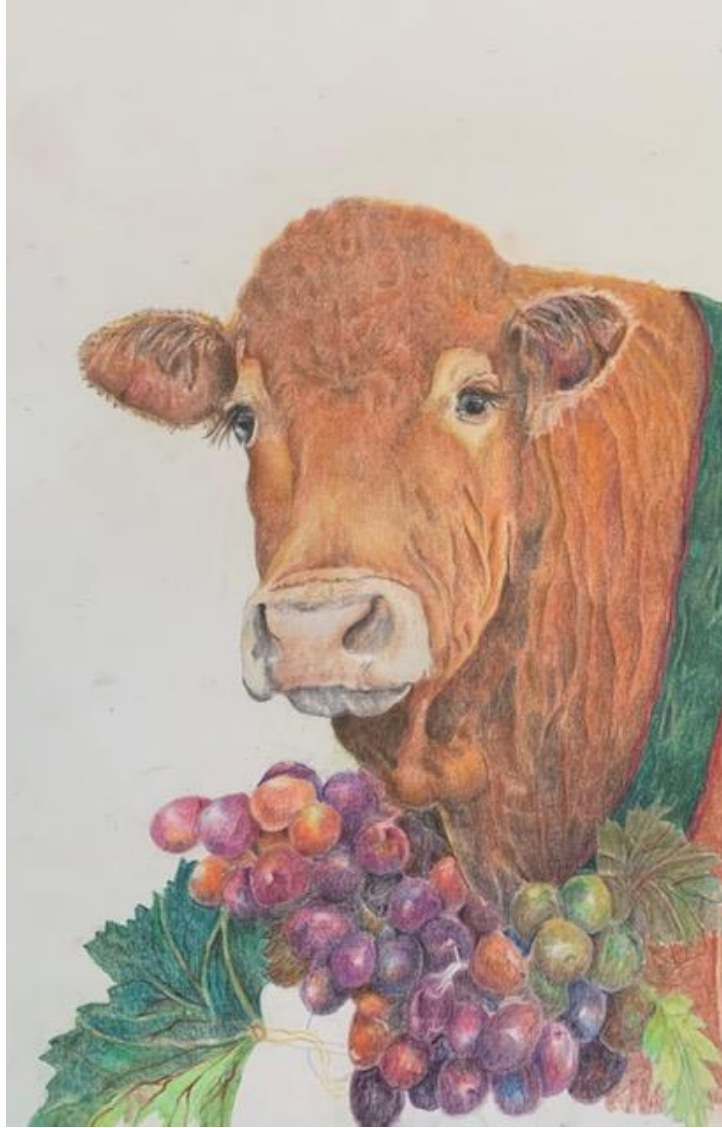
30 x 24

\$950

I wanted to capture both the beauty and history of Graves Mill in this watercolor. The magic is always in the discovery. The hidden painted buntings within the blue irises. Blue irises symbolize faith and hope.







**Kitty Dodd**  
***Mistress of the Vineyard***

Color Pencil  
18 x 12  
\$450

Madison County is a paradise for lovers of history and beauty. There are farms filled with picturesque buildings and peaceful acres of animals. Wineries have also found a home in Madison County due to the wonderful weather and vineyard friendly soil.

**Lea Doise**  
***Red Clay Road***

Oil  
11 x 14  
\$875







**V-Anne Evans**  
***Shepherdess***

Oil  
16 x 20  
\$380

Community in this region of Virginia often centers around the land. It is our animals, crops and the protection of this land that give forth so much bounty here. Caring for these many gifts, is central to how so many of us define ourselves — as members of a small community of farmers, dotted amid vast and ever growing regions of urbanization and development.

While we are united by the farmers markets, co-ops and organizations that support farmers, the daily work we do is often solitary. This painting captures me in my daily routine of checking on my sheep, looking at each animal to be sure all are well, and scanning the fields and fence lines for anything out of the ordinary. A flock of sheep trust only their shepherd or shepherdess, so the task must be mine alone, every day.

Yet ironically, I am never more connected to my sense of place in this community, as when I am alone with my sheep, resting in the deep peace of their quiet trust in my care, and knowing we, as farmers, are deeply united in a community by our solitary, individual acts of caring.

**Jane Goodman**  
***The White Barn***

Oil  
11 x 14  
\$350







**Katherine Griffin Hand**  
***School Band***

Charcoal on canvas

48 x 36

\$500

The exuberance in my son's face captures his love of sound and instruments. It's also a reminder of the pan-community of musicians and enthusiasts he joins — across time, genre, and geography — playing trumpet in the school band.

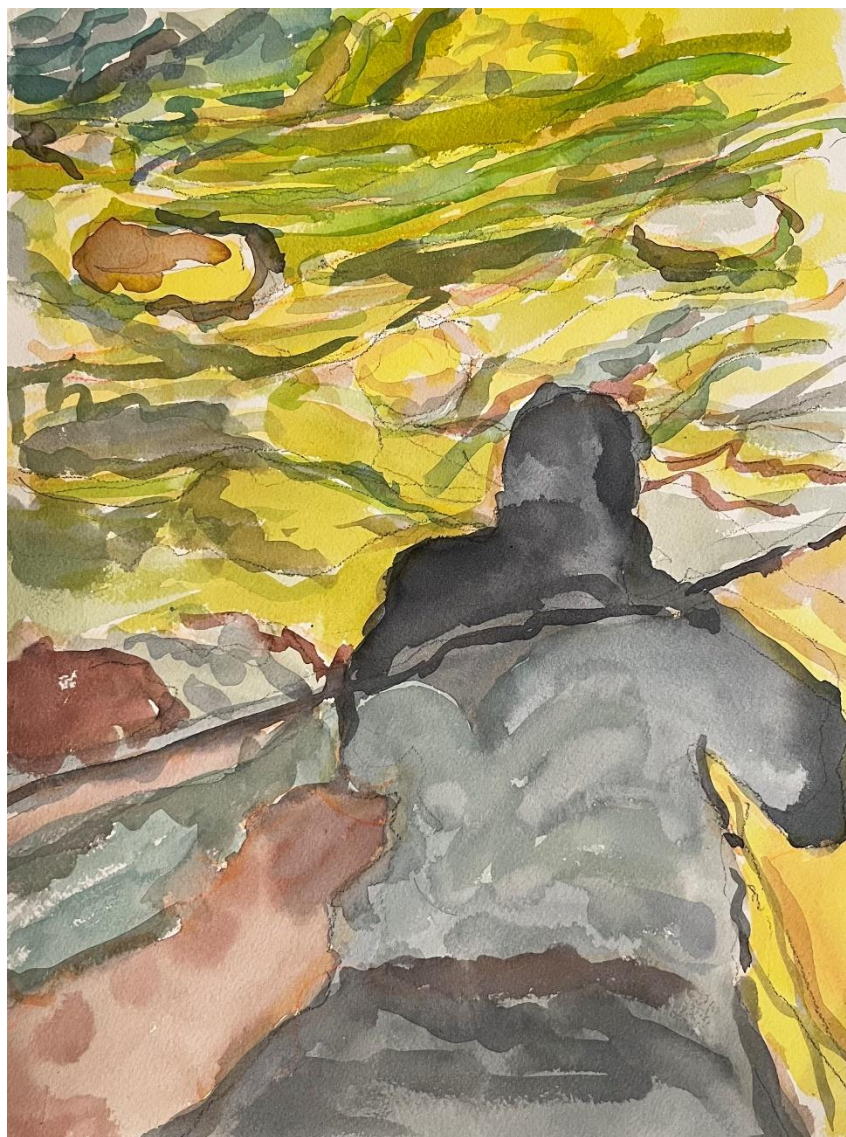
**Patty Kennedy Hudson**  
***A Good Life***

Acrylic  
18 x 24  
\$975

Rochelle, in Madison County has been the home of G & G Longhorns, since 2016. Local traffic enjoys the spectacular view of the farm and longhorns on Jacks Shop Road. These magnificent animals are frequently visible from the road and are often gracefully posed just yards from the fence. The Blue Ridge Mountains are their backdrop. On this July day, the cows are resting in the shaded field, waiting to calf.







**Vincent Lupinetti**  
***My shadow leaves me to join the  
Conway River in its meander***

Watercolor

11 x 15

\$500

**Linda Ashley Miller**  
***A Little Bit of Country Heaven***

Watercolor

9 x 12

\$700







**Jon Perry**  
***Dislocated***

Acrylic  
16.5 x 16.5  
\$300

Approximately five hundred families lived happy and productive lives in the area that was to become Shenandoah National Park. Sociologist Fay Cooper Cole, hired by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, researched the health and economy of what have been called "Hollow Folk" and falsely reported that they were seriously undernourished, economically unviable, and uneducated. As a result, the inhabitants were forcibly removed and their homes, businesses and public buildings largely destroyed. Recent archaeological studies have revealed the truth: they found evidence of mills, distilleries, and other businesses, farms, orchards, stores, churches, post offices, schools, as well as substantial homes with "up-to-date" furnishings, jewelry, radios and automobiles.

**Cheryl Ragland**  
***Blue Ridge Bling***

Glass seed beads, sterling silver chain

10.75 x 8.75

\$175

Madison is blessed with wonderful views of the Blue Ridge. I made this beaded pendant, hoping to evoke the feeling of the mountains in the distance and the vibrancy of the scenery.







**Chee Kludt Ricketts**  
***All in a Day's Work***  
Watercolor and Gouache  
6 x 16  
\$445

Our rural lifestyle would not exist if not for the farmer, for he rests at the very heart of the rural community. Working alone in all seasons and for lengthy hours, the farmer's reverence for the land is "the tie that binds" each of us to the pastoral world we inhabit. What we experience today is due to the past efforts of his ancestors. Through the farmer's enduring commitment, this beautiful world will be sustained and enhanced for future generations.

**Janice Rosenberg**  
***Possum's Store and a White Cat***

Oil  
10 x 10  
\$350

The Possum store was a pleasure to paint with its' yellow clapboards and welcoming flower covered porch.







**Sara Schneidman**

***My place is set between two mountain tops.  
Star filled pitcher, plate of sighs, bowl brimming  
with the twilight sky.***

Watercolor on hand made paper

22 x 22

\$1,800

A powerful dream and a friend led us to move here thirty four years ago. For me, living with these old mountains is everything: a sense of spaciousness, of freedom, of possibility, of endurance and of fortitude. Being so connected to nature and all its beauty is the inspiration I need.

**Cecilia Schultz**  
***Hebron Valley***

Acrylic  
36 x 24  
\$450







**Gail Trimmer-Unterman**  
***A Farmers Vacation***  
Watercolor  
12 x 16  
\$600

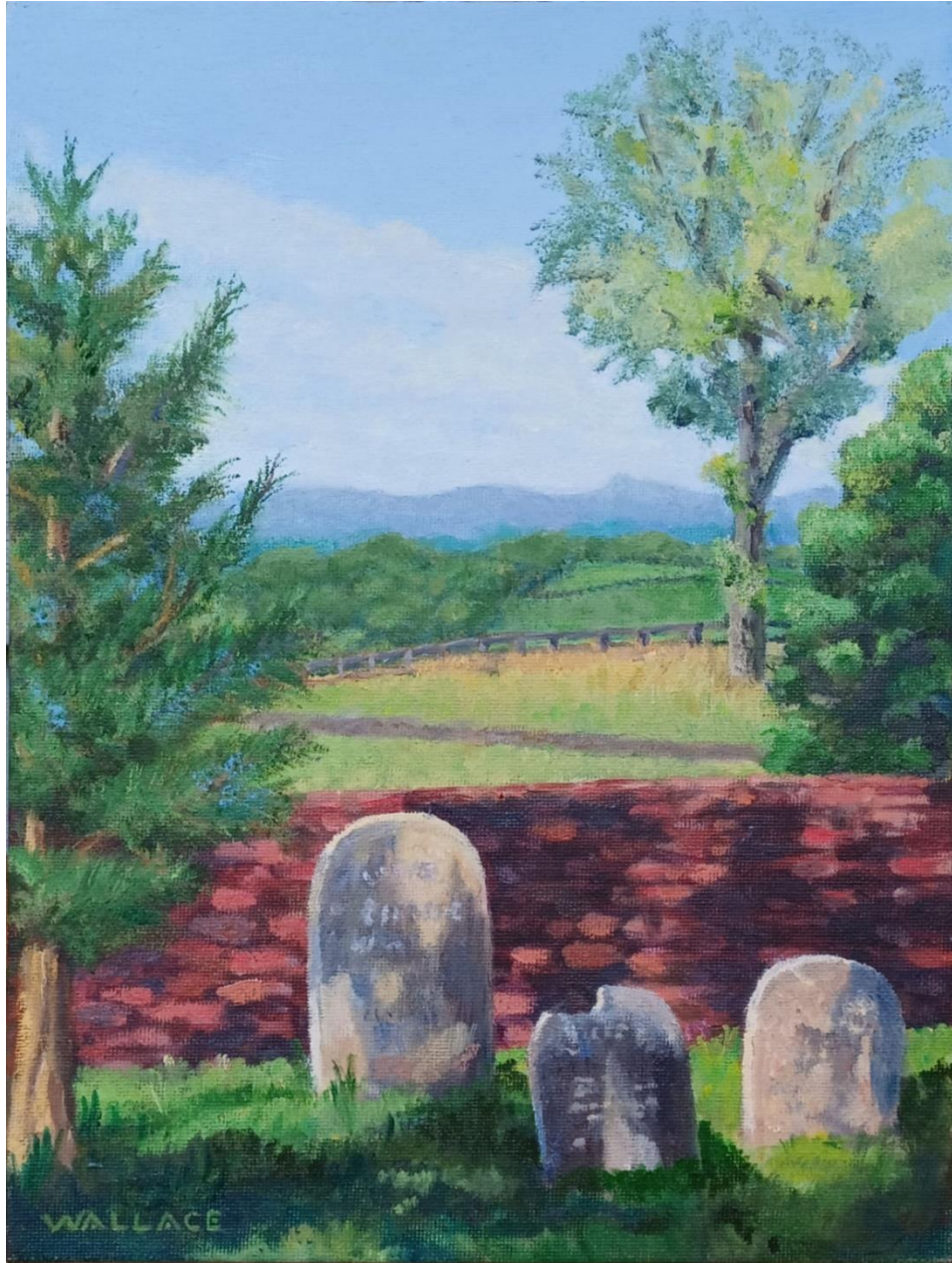
**Tina Wade**  
***Flight of the Milkweed***

Oil  
20 x 16  
\$800

I love to see the milkweed going to seed in the autumn, flying off to start a new cycle of life.







**Barb Wallace**  
***Hallowed Ground***

Oil  
12 x 9  
\$295

Every community has its share of graveyards. They connect our lives to the ancestors before us, and the land around us.

**Vickie Watts**  
***Eco Print on Silk Stole***

Natural dyes and Eco prints on Silk de Chine

22 x 72

\$120

Eco dyeing and printing are processes using the pigments in nature to dye and print fabric. The colors on this stole are derived from local plants commonly found in Madison County. The prints include pecan, peony, blackberry, maple, grape, dogwood and winged sumac leaves. The gold background came from goldenrod flowers.

The Silk de Chine can be washed in cold water with a mild detergent and hung to dry.







**Patricia Williams**  
***Persimmons Tree, Very Pretty***

Watercolor on Cradled Clayboard

16 x 20 x 3/4

\$695

In sixth grade Mrs. Walker  
slapped the back of my head  
and made me stand in the corner  
for not knowing the difference  
between *persimmon* and *precision*.  
How to choose  
persimmons. This is precision.  
Ripe ones are soft and brown-spotted.  
Sniff the bottoms. The sweet one  
will be fragrant. How to eat:  
put the knife away, lay down newspaper.  
Peel the skin tenderly, not to tear the meat.  
Chew the skin, suck it,  
and swallow. Now, eat  
the meat of the fruit,  
so sweet,  
all of it, to the heart.

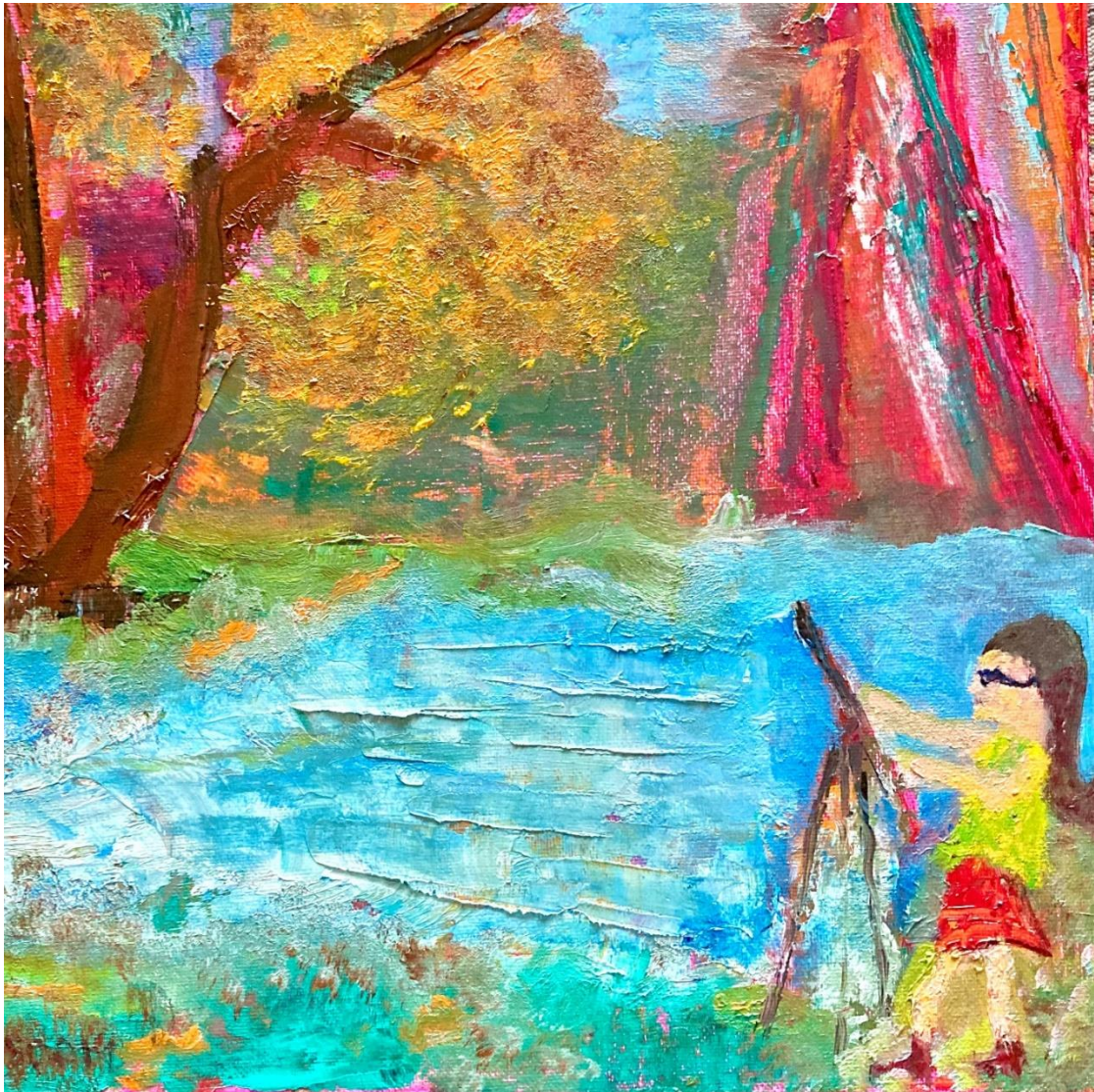
Li-Young Lee, *Persimmons*

**Claudia Wisdom-Good**  
***Plein-air Party***

Oil and Cold Wax on board

12 x 12

\$375





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