

CURATOR'S REPORT – FCCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11/1/09

After one year on the job as Curator for FCCA, I need to thank the wonderful volunteers who support me and make possible our regional and national exhibits. Last year Susanne Ludlum, the retiring curator, provided me with a Curator's Notebook, which she developed that contained every detail of planning and presenting juried art exhibits at FCCA. Without her guidance and the encouragement of Dave Tanks, I could have never taken on the responsibility. I thoroughly enjoy planning and directing the installation of each new exhibit and I learn more from the experience every month.

Thank you to Lynnette and the Board of Trustees for your support. Thank you to the local artists who submit ideas for exhibition themes and vote for themes that appeal to artists. Thank you to the "take-down and shipping" crew who faithfully show up on Saturday morning to dismantle an exhibit and either uncrate received art or repackage art for return shipping. Thanks you, Barbara Hall, Bev Bley, Dorothy Bourdon, Patricia Murray, Kay Roscoe, Jeff Messmore, Kerri Williams, Anne Parks, Anne Tate, Susan Krieg, Penny Hicks and Lynn Mehta. Thank you to the "hanging crew" who faithfully show up on Sunday morning to make a beautiful arrangement of varied artworks that somehow all come together as an exciting visual experience. Thank you, Donna Coley, Bob Worthy, Heidi Lewis, Kate Logan, John Nichols, Jeff Messmore, and Kerri Williams. Thank you to Dave Bellard and Jeanne Tanks who have spent hours creating PowerPoint slide shows for the juror to view and select work for our exhibits. Thank you, Carolyn Beever for photographing artwork for our website, Mary Ann Stagner for providing photographs of receptions, and Jeanne Tanks, our webmaster, for keeping artists and visitors informed about our exhibitions. Thank you to an awesome Maura Harrison for her creative designs for all our publicity and thanks to Ru Rock for her unfailing attention to putting FCCA in the public view. There are others who generously give their time to help with opening receptions. Thanks to Susan Krieg, Don Colt, Jack Lynham, Patricia Murray, Shirley Whelan, and Alicia Synan-Tempstra. Thanks to Jeff Snyder who provides keyboard music for our exhibit openings. I am sure that I have left out names, but I think you now get the picture. Many volunteers make our gallery exhibits an enjoyable reality. Teamwork and group efforts support our amazing exhibits, which just seem to appear on the walls.

I fell in love with the Fredericksburg Museum of Modern Art in the 1960's and taught my first art classes in the upstairs classroom. In 1968 I became a public school art teacher and after 35 years I retired in 2002. I returned to the Silversmith House on Sophia Street as a volunteer FCCA docent and then one thing led to another. Now I can report on the progress we are making this year.

The FCCA is the oldest continuously operating art gallery in Fredericksburg. We have grown as a gallery and we have preserved an historical building of intrinsic value. Our regional exhibitions showcase the work of many well-known artists from the local area and an increasing number of prominent artists from as far as Bethesda, MD, Clifton Forge, VA, Richmond and Northern Virginia. Our national juried exhibitions present a broad spectrum of nationally known artists who have extensive resumes and are represented in many corporate, museum, and private collections. Please take time to read the Artist Statements and bios in our Frederick Gallery Notebook. It is to the great credit of our regional artists that many of them are selected for our FCCA national level juried exhibitions and consistently win awards. I am proud of the level of expertise represented by our competent and experienced jurors and hope to enlist others with acknowledged reputations. An increasing number of artists are responding to our national "Call for Entries", which are advertised nationwide in Art Calendar Magazine and online at various artist competition websites. Our September 2009 "Layers" national exhibit set a record by representing 236 entries by 80 artists from twenty states and the District of Columbia. Our regional exhibits are attracting more artists—some returning after many years and others new to our area or exhibiting with us for the first time.

What can we do better. We do need to increase our number of visitors and patrons. I encourage you to invite your friends, relatives, and guests to visit our gallery exhibits. I would like to see an increase in the number of art purchases, and welcome your suggestions. We hope to use electronic marketing more successfully in the future and broaden our audience. We still get visitors who say "I have lived here for years, but this is the first time I have been in your art gallery." Thank you for supporting FCCA, and I look forward to seeing you on First Friday.

Carrol Morgan