

## Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League Annual Juried Show Winners 2008 Announced

At the opening reception for the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League Annual Juried Show on Friday, November 7, the following winners were announced. Winners were chosen by juror Wendy Outland, an arts consultant from Asheville. The show is currently in the Upper Gallery at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, located in the old City Hall at 225 W. State Street, and will be available for the public to view through Wednesday, November 26. The Center is open from 10-5 weekdays (closed Thursdays), and from 1-4 on Saturdays, but will be closed during the Thanksgiving holidays. For more information, contact 828/669-0930.

Best of Show was a hand built *raku* clay set entitled "Mother and Chick" by Erin Essin Campbell of Black Mountain. First Place winners were: Oil – Marian Morrison-Sinks, Black Mountain, "Portrait of Mb," Pastel – Susan Sinyai, Asheville, "Rolled Gold," and Watercolor – Joyce Black-Woerz, Black Mountain, "Caduceus."

Second Place winners were: Oil – Lynn Newhouse, Black Mountain, "Lake Burnett," Pastel – Fran Greenberg, Asheville, "Sarah," and Watercolor – Charles E. Smith, Black Mountain, "Dad's Barn". Honorable Mention in Watercolor went to Janice Lape', Asheville, "A Path in the Woods."

These talented locals bring a variety of training, methods, and backgrounds to their work. Best of Show Winner Erin Essin Campbell holds a B.F.A. from The Metropolitan State College of Denver with an emphasis in Metalsmithing/Sculpture. Her experiences range from internships with other artists, taking classes at Penland School of Craft and Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts, to teaching jewelry at her *alma mater*. Her current concentration is hand building ceramic pieces. Campbell's recent award winning piece titled "Mother and Chick" features two hand-built sculptures that were *raku* glazed. "*Raku* is a method of firing pottery that I use often. The thrill of taking my piece out of the kiln at 1800 degrees, placing it in a metal can filled with combustibles, watching it flame up, slamming the lid on, and reducing the oxygen is exciting. After the flames are gone, the unpredictable outcome and happy accident is rewarding. For me, working intentionally with my vision, and then letting go of a controlled outcome is essential."



Erin Essin Campbell shows off the ribbon for Best of Show for the SVFAL's Annual Juried Show for her raku handbuilt pieces "Mother and Chick."



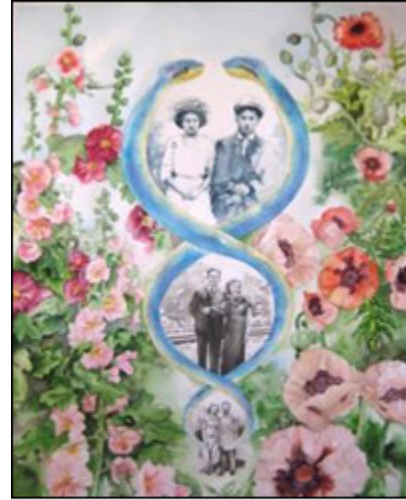
Susan Sinyai's First Place winning pastel, "Rolled Gold" was based on a scene from a late summer afternoon on the Virginia mountains.

Pastel artist Sinyai states about her piece, "'Rolled Gold' is a pastel work based on a late summer afternoon scene in the Virginia mountains. In this particular piece my own photographs served as my source. I am drawn to a scene by the quality of the light and compositional elements I find compelling. This, however, is only the beginning, since as I work I find myself drawn into the painting. It takes on an energy of its own in my imagination. I think this is what gives my paintings a somewhat ethereal, mystical quality." In 1987, while raising her children, Sinyai enrolled in the Art Department at UNCA to embark on a second college career, where she completed the BFA in 1994, graduating with honors. Since that time, she has been a working artist, exhibiting in numerous local and regional shows. Susan was commissioned by the University in 2000

to paint the portrait of former Chancellor Samuel Shuman, and that same year she was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant from the Asheville Arts Alliance.

Watercolorist Black-Woerz, majored in both psychology and art as a non-traditional college student and then worked in the Human Service field for 19 years while raising her children. This intense exposure to people's lives has greatly influenced her art. Much of it includes the use of vintage photographs that she feels drawn to emotionally. Her painting, "Caduceus," is part of a series, "Back in the Garden, Eden Revisited", and was inspired by a collection of couple's photographs and the impact on her marriage of the relocation process to Black Mountain over a two and a half year stretch, where she lived here and her husband commuted from Maryland. These paintings all feature couples in gardens but in this case, the snake is a symbol of healing as it is in many cultures. The top couple is her great grandparents and in the middle are her grandparents. While not a true caduceus, the entwined snakes are a reminder of a DNA strand, genetic heritage and the legacy of family dynamics. The poppies represent a descent into the unconscious, as in those poppy fields in The Wizard of Oz. Healing can take place on this level as well as a conscious one.

Morrison-Sinks painted a non-traditional oil portrait of her adult daughter, using shades of red to highlight the subject. Sinks, formerly of Greensboro, also has work currently showing in the Handmade in America Parade of Homes house, "The Ramble." She states, "I am a painter working in the mediums of oil and pastel and pencil drawing. My art is primarily representational and principally depict landscapes, still life and the human form. I studied under Tucker Cooke at UNC-Asheville and Richard Kinnaird at UNC-Chapel Hill."



Watercolorist Joyce Black-Woerz captured family history and healing in her painting, "Caduceus," which captured First Place in watercolors.