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Artists & Makers Studios 1 and 2 Host Must-See Exhibits for the Month of May

“Modern Botanicals” with Lesley Riley

Her work with leaves began three years ago when she moved from the city to a mountain forest. Her eyes and heart were opened to a new, deeper and more meaningful form of creative expression. In Riley’s surroundings, inspiration literally falls at her feet. She combines the 150-year-old cyanotype process with a little water (wet cyanotype) and modern digital technology to enhance and be witness to the inherent beauty of leaves.

“In the Moment: Recent Work by Cathy Abramson”

This recent body of work continues to tell stories but is more attuned to painterly qualities, revealing people and objects through light, color and brushstroke. “A single moment in time” comes to mind when one views her work, as each image appears to freeze-frame a whirl of urban activity or a quiet moment in the landscape and offers the viewer a chance to reflect on that moment’s juxtaposition with and application to other locations, cultures, and actions. Like photography, she deals with events and moments that vanish but unlike photography she can paint a memory.

“WTF Gurlz” Group Exhibit with Mimi Frank, Kate Kretz, Betsy Packard, Angela White

While the 'WTF Gurlz' pursue individual responses to finding meaning (in life, politics, religion, culture, and art), we also share a unified desire to try and collectively understand what’s going on in our world. And why. We pursue these questions through strong and diverse artistic work. But we also pursue these questions as a group, through meetings, conversations, and through the community of strong women artists that we are building together.

“Watercolor: A New Direction” with David Daniels (Gallery Talk, May 25th at 11am – Wilkins)

David Daniels art lies directly in the three-way intersection of his biology degree, his art degree and his love of nature. Those three elements have equally shaped Daniels’ life and art. He finds watercolor surprisingly versatile, which feeds into his drive to experiment with various materials and methods. Borrowing from batik, Daniels’ uses a masking agent and multiple washes to achieve a range of effects, from delicate to bold. It is an ever-present challenge to push the limits of watercolor by using innovative techniques; all the while, preserving the natural beauty of the medium. Each painting in this exhibit is a delicate dance between his desire to bring harmony and beauty to the viewer, and an exploration of new directions.

“What Color is Your DNA?” with Nana Bagdavadze

By successfully donating bone marrow to her sister, Bagdavadze developed fascination towards genetics and began to visualize DNA. In her work, the iconic Double Helix represents a symbol of life, rebirth and healing. We are made of this organic living language and share 99.9%. This series of paintings titled; “What Color Is Your DNA?”, represent the connectedness of everything and celebrates what we have in common with each other and the universe. Captivated by the rhythm and complexity of its form, in the Double Helix ladder the artist sees the dance between art and science. Throughout history, each has borrowed knowledge from the other and each uses the other to understand and express itself.