Interview with Jes Belkov Gordon

Who are you and what do you do, and what is your background?
My name is Jes Belkov Gordon, and I am an artist. I have made my career out of specializing in color. I graduated from the Atlanta College of Art with a degree in Painting in 1997. I’ve spent time painting murals and creative decorative finishes for people in their homes. I spent many years under the hat of “color consultant” where I help people pick paint colors for their homes and businesses based on personality profiles. I have a certification with the IACC-NA (International Association of Color Consultants/Designers of North America), where I studied color from scientific perspective of human reaction to the color environment. I now make paintings with the mergence of my color training and fine art study. I’m addicted to liquid color!

What’s integral to your art and or art career?
The most important thing to me has been my studio outside my home. I require having a space that is only there so that I can make art. I have tried every room in my home. I have tried temporary spaces. I have tried everything imaginable. I LOVE having a sacred art space. I make more art that way. I’m comfortable and free when I go there. I’m not haunted by “other” things I “should” be doing. And I’m not faced with the tug and pull of family duties while I’m in my studio. It’s my own personal heaven!

What themes do you pursue and what medium do you use.
I am an acrylic painter and occasional mixed media artist, using paper as my sub-straight. Right now the most important theme in my work
it authenticity. I used to paint what I thought was clever or what I thought would be well received. That gets old and painful. It’s important to me that I paint for the love and joy of painting. While my father was dying of cancer, he was actually prescribed painting. He was told to make art and that it might help him to heal. He never did do it. My mother was an artist, but never pursued it seriously, and after her death I felt like I needed to make my art my life’s focus again. Because of my experience with my parents, I paint intuitively. I paint with my soul. I paint me. Writers are told to write what they know; as an artist, I feel like I need to paint what I know. I know color. I love color. So right now, my work is about using forms of color to express the joy I find in painting. I’m also expressing the beauty in the seemingly broken, chaotic parts of life.

**What makes you angry, what makes you happy?**

Simplicity makes me happy. Painting makes me happy. Watching my son (whom I homeschool) learn something new makes me happy. Listening to my husband perform music makes me happy. Cake makes me happy. Drinking tea with girlfriends with good conversation makes me happy. Painting with others makes me happy. Going to art museums and galleries makes me happy. Indian food makes me happy. Vegan food makes me happy. I don’t like to talk about what makes me angry, I’d rather paint through that and talk about what makes me happy.

**Who and what inspire you in your work and or in your life in general?**

I’m inspired by everyday people. We are amazing creatures. I see friends and family going through so much pain and trouble, and yet I see them expressing kindness and love and laughter; that inspires me. I’m so inspired by other artists and what they create. I love going to artist panel discussion and talks. I’m inspired by music! What’s better than blaring the music and dancing around the studio with a brush in one’s hand... I mean, come on! That’s just the BEST!

**What superpower would you want?**

The power to heal physical ailments; that’s the superpower I’d want.

**What is your favorite artists and or other person?**

Judy Chicago, Miriam Schapiro, Faith Ringgold, Georgia O’Keeffe, Josef Albers, Paul Klee, etc...
**What advice would you give to other artists.**

Seek out some intuitive painting or creative techniques. These tools are so important to have in our back pocket for those days when excuses and blocks make creating difficult. I find that it’s always best to work on a couple things at once, so you are taking any one painting or piece too seriously. Don’t force it; meaning that when you feel like you don’t know what to do next with something that you are working on, take a break and ask the piece what it wants. Journaling a conversation with your piece can go a long way... I highly recommend it. Believe in yourself, and don’t quit. I think it’s important that when you are in the arts, you know that other people’s opinions are just that; opinions. If you are creating something that you love and are addicted to creating, then it has a place in this world. High art isn’t always the best fit for all of us; there is an audience for everything! Do what you love and never give up!

**Contact details if any?**

Jes Belkov Gordon  
www.bucketsofcolor.com  
bucketsofcolor@yahoo.com  
410-507-7991  
You can find me at Sycamore Place Gallery & Studios in Decatur

**May Art Share**

**When:** Thursday, May 9, 7-9 pm  
**Where:** At the Common House, 900 Dancing Fox Road, Decatur, GA 30032  
**Hosted By:** Jes Gordon, 410-597-7991  
**Art Share Coordinator:** Kathy Meliopoulos, 404-325-0863, kathymeliopoulos@gmail.com

Bring: Your finished work or work in progress to share. Beverages will be provided, you may bring a snack to share. Please let Jes or Kathy know if you will be attending (you can also RSVP on the WCAGA website).

The Art Share program is a forum for members of WCAGA to show their work for the purpose of gaining feedback and insight, and to network with other art professionals.
Guests and prospective members are welcome!
We love to hear from you so please email if you would like to host an Art Share or have a suggestion for a venue or format.

Parking information for Common House. Gate will be open, please enter the community and follow the road into the parking lot. You will see parking spaces become available on the right at the retention wall. Please park here. The Common House is in the center of the community. All paths lead to the Common House. There will be sidewalk chalk signs to direct you. If you have questions or need help please call Jes: 410-597-7991.

Reading Club

The discussion for The Twelve Habits of Highly Creative Women was so lively, we are going to continue it for another month. As a companion piece, we are also going to discuss The Soul's Code: In search of Character and Calling.

WHEN: Sunday 4/28, 3p
WHERE: Teresa Libbey's 1285 Vista Leaf Drive, Decatur, 30033

All WCAGA members, potential members, and guests are invited. Come and join the discussion (even if you have not read the book). This is a social and discussion event which includes food and beverages. If you want to bring something to eat or drink it will be welcome. If you know you are planning to attend, it's helpful to RSVP: vickiemartinarts@comcast.net

If you have any questions contact our Reading Group Coordinators:
Vickie Martin, vickiemartinarts@comcast.net
Vicki Bethel (Maggie), bethel.thayer@mindspring.com

Upcoming Events

4/28 3pm
Reading Club Meeting

5/8 7-9pm
WCAGA Board Meeting - All Welcome
Ann Rowles house

5/9 7-9pm
ArtShare
Common House, Decatur

For more Events visit WCAGA Events Page.

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WCAGA Website

You are encouraged to visit WCAGA's new website, www.WCAGA.org. As a member you can join this site and post your personal images as well as information about exhibitions and events. TRY IT....YOU WILL REALLY LIKE IT!

WCAGA Blog

Join the WCAGA in communicating and educating on our BLOG. You can join as a contributor, ask to be added...a follower... it's easy. Or send info you
Drawing Marathon

So far, 26 members have participated in this program. I hope we have dates this year that will enable more of you to attend. Look for dates in the upcoming Newsletters. Thanks to all who have hosted and participated. I have been having a wonderful time as I hope everyone else is too. (Barb Rehg brehgstudios@bellsouth.net)

Call For Art

“Dolls in the City”

Art Exhibit WCAGA member Exhibit Opportunity:
Exhibit dates: May 3 – June 29.
“DOLLS IN THE CITY:” The major objectives of this exhibit are to raise awareness that sex trafficking is a problem in the Atlanta metro area and to provide an educational platform for the local organizations that are available to help. By encouraging community dialogues around this subject, we hope to help save some of our young people who are victims or potential victims of sex trafficking.
The 2 Rules Fine Art gallery opened in 2011 and is just off the Historic Downtown Marietta Square.
Submi ssion Deadline: April 14, 2013
Application Submission: Send application materials by email to Loretta Paraguassu at eyelandone@hotmail.com Label each image as follows: number_FirstnameLastname.jpg Example: 1_LorettaParaguassu.jpg (Number your artwork in the email description, so the image number corresponds to the art piece.)
For more information go to Opportunities on the WCAGA Website

MOCA GA Open Call
The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA) is organizing a major exhibition of work by the artists of Georgia. To assemble an exhibition of work being produced today, MOCA GA is reaching out for submissions from all artists residing in the State. To curate this exhibition, MOCA GA has asked three artists who have received MOCA GA's Working Artist Project award to serve as the jurors. The intent of this exhibition is not to do a survey or to find a common theme, but to assemble in one exhibition some of the best work currently being produced in Georgia. By having this open call, we expect to mount an exciting and thoughtful exhibition of work which embraces artists from around our State and at the same time fulfills MOCA GA's mission of producing programs that promote the visual arts and create a forum for active interchange between artists and the community. Exhibition will be juried by MOCA GA's WAP Fellows, Xie Caomin, Larry Walker, and Martha Whittington.

This call is open to all artists 18 years and older living in Georgia. **Deadline** is Tuesday, April 16th at 5pm.

**Women's Rights: "An Artist's Perspective"

We are happy to announce that we have found a gallery to house this exhibition and so have extended the call for art until April 19th! It is a wonderful space owned and run by Pam Foss, a fabulous artist with a focus on activist art. St. Michaels is a popular tourist town, with many visitors from Washington DC.  

**Gallery:** Pam Foss Fine Art, 202 South Talbot Street, St Michaels, MD 21663, http://www.pamfosssculpture.com

**Show Dates:** November 1 to November 24, 2013

**Opening reception:** Saturday, November 2nd.

Deadline to enter: April 19th

Announcement of work chosen for the gallery will be sent by May 3rd.

We will still have an online show for this exhibition. The online gallery will go live after the jury process is completed on May 5th.

Any questions? Contact karengutfreundart@gmail.com


This link will also be on the UniteWomen.org website: www.unitewomen.org

QUESTIONS about the exhibition

-- Email karengutfreundart@gmail.com

For prospectus and more information go to UniteWomen's Website

Creating: Postcards for Arts 4 Alzheimer's

We invite artists to donate a 4” x 6” original work on paper for the Celebrate: Arts 4 Alzheimer’s benefit sale on Thursday, May 2 from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Spruill Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia. Painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, and mixed media are welcome.

The date for the Celebrate: Arts 4 Alzheimer’s event has been changed to September 19th. The Arts 4 Alzheimer's Call for Artists postcard has a new final date to be postmarked: Wednesday, August 21, 2013. More Info Arts4Alzheimer's Website.

The Book as Art Call for Entries

The Book as Art exhibition, July 19-Sept. 20 in the gallery at The Art Institute of Atlanta-Decatur, will be held in conjunction with the AJC Decatur Book Festival, the largest
independent book festival in the country. It is expected to draw 75,000 book-lovers to downtown Decatur over Labor Day weekend (Aug. 30-Sept. 1), demonstrating that books are cherished by multitudes in tangible and touchable form even as they morph into new forms and formats. Entries for The Book as Art must be submitted digitally through www.callforentry.org (CaFÉ) March 25- June 3, 2013.

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**General News**

- **From** Fennel Blythe (efblythe@gmail.com)

The primary news that I have is that I was asked to be a resident artist at Graffiti art gallery in Chattanooga (629 Spears Ave.) this past month. The gallery has a Facebook page as well, it is called 'Graffiti, a Hill City Art Joint'... I am also searching for non-representational galleries in Atlanta to submit art to. However, I really don't know where to start with my search. If you know of any, please let me know.

- **The 2013 IACC-NA Color Summit**

The International Association of Color Consultants North America (IACC-NA) and the Art Institute of Atlanta - Decatur Campus bring you...

The IACC-NA Color Summit
Saturday, April 27, 2013
from 9:00am-4:30pm.
- Don't miss the Networking Reception on Friday, April 26 from 6PM-9PM at Sycamore Place Gallery! - (120 Sycamore Place, Decatur)

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**News From WCA National**
The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts is pleased to announce ‘MADE IN PAINT’, an exhibition of works produced by 7 artists from our inaugural year of the Golden Foundation Residency Program in 2012.

**2013 ARTLINES Art Edition Grant**

The Artlines Art Edition Grant is intended to provide a professional development opportunity for one or two WCAs members who are interested in editing and designing a special art edition of ArtLines for WCA. We are seeking innovative work that is both eye-catching and newsworthy. Upon publication, the editor/designer will receive a payment of $500 for her work.

**Current and Upcoming Exhibitions and Workshops**

- **Formations: Patterns in Nature**
- **Crossing into Abstraction: WCAGA Members Exhibition**
- **April Fools Day**
- **Art Immersion Trip**
- **Nuances**

To have your Exhibitions and Workshops added to this Newsletter please create and event on the [WCAGA Website](#).
Our mailing address is:
*PO Box 8033, Atlanta, GA 31106*
unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences