



May/June in the Gallery: *Conundrum*

Released March 29, 2019

Deborah Colburn, a member artist at Main Street Gallery, is the gallery's featured artist for May and June. Showing artwork she has entitled "Conundrum", the St. Michaels painter will exhibit alongside the work of the other gallery artist members. A conundrum, she explains, is a situation that is a challenge to understand or is ambiguous, or which has no clear answer. In the case of her artwork, Deborah explains that there is no right or wrong meaning to her richly colored, mostly abstract works. Their content depends on the viewer's perspective and the meaning can change over time.

A St. Michaels resident for the past 20 years, Deborah came to paint later in her life. She had dabbled in art off and on since college but became serious about it back in 1999 when she first moved to the Eastern Shore. After attending the opening of an art exhibit, she wandered into the craft shop and picked up a paintbrush. Deborah said she felt an immediate jolt of excitement and knew then and there that she had to paint.

Painting in both oil and acrylic Deborah's subjects have been primarily landscapes, animals and abstracts. She has scaled back her career as an occupational therapist to allow her more time to practice the craft she loves, but she does enjoy working, under the auspices of Talbot Mentors, with at risk youth and adolescents, helping them create art in her Wittman studio, WittAireArtists, in the McMartin & Beggins Fine Furniture Building.

"The work in this show is primarily created as a 'dance between the canvas, and my palette and brush' she says". Explaining how she begins a work, Deborah says she makes an initial mark, responds to each in turn as the marks begin to build. Occasionally she focuses on a particular emotion or experience or limits her work to just two or three colors. The viewers, says Deborah, are encouraged to find their own meaning in the work.

"Conundrum" opens on Friday, May 3 and will continue through Sunday, June 23. There will be two Second Saturday receptions at the gallery on May 11 and June 8 from 5-8 pm. All are invited and light refreshments will be served.

Main Street Gallery is located at 518 Poplar Street directly across from Jimmie and Sooks. Visit the gallery website at: www.mainstgallery.org or call 410-330-4659 for more information.

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