

Moving Forward

Thoroughly Un-Bored

I'm a Gemini according to my birth date and every June I check my Horoscope to see if there is anything new that Astrologists know that I don't know about me. According to an expert, "boredom is Gemini's biggest fear and we need to look for inner stimulation to feed our appetite for adventure".

Maybe my birth date is wrong or the Horoscope Guru got something mixed up because there is no time for boredom, fear or anything related. Here it is June and my biggest "fear" is I won't get to do all things on my list for you this year. We just finalized plans to add another new artist to our roster to feed the appetites of our "hungry" collectors, added more demonstrations through our new "Teach Me Now" program to satisfy the curious, while we continue to host monthly exhibits in concert with ArtWalk. For more fun and excitement, we are making plans with some alliance partners, like Waddell & Reed, to bring charity events, wine tastings and workshops to our customers. Do I sound bored yet?

We also have more plans and can't wait to report what's coming next. Refusing to become stymied by the media's daily dismal economic reports, we went out and found top-rated additions for the gallery like Fran Dodd from Pueblo and soon-to-be introduced Don Hamilton from Castle Rock. And *Who's Who of American Artists*, Sparky LeBold, is coming to the gallery for a one-man, one night show this summer! If you don't know these artists yet, you have to see their work in person to understand why I am so excited and *un-bored*.

Don't miss our classes offered weekly and taught by Don Hamilton if you are interested in putting paint on canvas, and join us on June 12 for his special guest appearance and two hour demonstration.

If you happen to be a Gemini and find yourself bored, stop by the gallery and let us give you the cure. Life's too short and I want you to feel what I feel – not bored!

Who's Who – Artist & Instructor Moving On

Kathryn A. McMahon has been painting and teaching art classes for the gallery for almost two years. Now her students will have to travel to Ft. Myers, Florida but collectors can continue to build their collection of McMahon paintings through Hunter-Wolff Gallery. It is hard saying "good-bye" to such a good friend but, as Kathryn says, "I'm just a phone call away" and never without a paint brush in hand. Kathryn is one of two artists who started with us as a "Colorado" artist and is now living out-of-state but not out of sight. Come visit her work and tell us what you enjoy best about her diverse collection.



Hunter-Wolff
GALLERY, LTD.
Fine Art & Collectibles

2510 W. Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs 80904
www.hunterwolffgallery.com

June - Pearl

Pearls symbolize love, happiness, wealth, honor and longevity. Both natural and cultured pearls form when a piece of sand, shell or other irritant cause the oyster to coat the foreign body with the pearly substance known as nacre.

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Kathryn A. McMahon



“When I look at
my art every day,
I get rewarded
every time”

— Harold (art collector)

Ask Kelli . . .

Q: My husband bought me a pearl necklace some years ago, but I am afraid to clean it myself. Should we take it to a jeweler?

A: Cleaning your pearls is easy to do at home. Just wipe them off with a dry cotton cloth after wearing. A teaspoon of Woolite diluted in a quart of warm water can be used if they appear visibly dirty. Dip for 10-15 seconds and wipe and lay out flat to dry. Be sure to store your pearls in a cotton bag – never plastic – and keep them separated from other jewelry. Wearing them regularly will keep them polished and lustrous from the oils in your body.

Q: I want to learn to oil paint but do not want to commit to more than a class at a time. Where can I get the attention I need based on my schedule with a good artist?

A: There are a number of places you can take workshops and individual classes in Colorado Springs including at Hunter-Wolff Gallery. We offer a weekly class, every Tuesday, from 9 am to 12 noon with Artist/Teacher Don Hamilton. Don provides one-on-one instruction to students working at all levels and you can take one class or as many as you have time for based on your schedule. After June, classes are going to be offered on Wednesdays. Just call to reserve your space each week. If this schedule doesn't work for you, we will try to help you find another artist/teacher.

Kelli

Call or send your questions
to AskKelli@gmail.com

Mark your calendar and be sure to visit 12 “ArtWalk Presented by Ent Business Banking” galleries located on W. Colorado Ave. Meet some of today's top representational artists, observe special art demos, and purchase works from a wide array of artistic styles. If you enjoy art in any form, don't miss ArtWalk

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AN INTERVIEW WITH DONNA GORDON, GLASS BLOWER & ENTREPRENEUR

Colorado Glass Blower Donna Gordon lives her dream every day creating beautiful hand-blown glass. *Donna helps us better understand the technical aspects in this interview.*

HWG: Donna, thanks for taking time away from your busy schedule to help our readers better understand blown glass. Of the different forms of art in our gallery, glassblowing is one of the least understood by our collectors. What makes your blown glass different from other types of glass often found in department/retail stores?

Donna: Glass found in a gallery is made by an individual or group of individuals. This means that they have invested in the equipment that they need to create their art form. It's important to keep in mind that there is great expense involved in running and maintaining the equipment. Typically, what you see in retail stores is an item that is mass produced either by machine or very inexpensive labor.

HWG: Blowing glass is a very complicated and the equipment used is highly specialized. How does a glassblower acquire the equipment needed?

Donna: Good question. When I originally built my shop there were only a handful of places in the US to purchase glassblowing equipment. After extensive research, I decided to purchase an electric furnace. It melts and houses the molten glass at a temperature of 2100°. It is the heart and soul of my hot shop. For the rest of the equipment, I purchased the only two books available on building glassblowing equipment. With the help of my parents, we custom built all of the other equipment. We built the *annealers* which slowly cool the pieces once they have been made. If the glass is cooled too quickly stress develops in the piece and at some point it will explode and shatter. We then built *two glory holes*; they are different sizes. The smaller glory hole is more efficient for smaller pieces. The glory holes are used to reheat the glass as it is being worked. The glory holes are fueled by gas and air. The same piece of glass can be worked all day as long as the temperature is maintained correctly. We also built the *marvers* or metal tables, bench, and the work table which are all used during the blowing process.

HWG: That's a lot of work! Can you describe some of the unique tools used for glassblowing?

Donna: Hollow *Pipes* are used to gather the glass from the furnace and air is blown into the glass to create a vessel. Once the piece is blown out to the shape and size desired, it is then transferred to a *punty*. The punty is attached to the bottom of the piece to enable the lip to be worked. *Punties* are also used to create sculpted forms. Any of the rest of the tools can be used in a number of ways but they all have a primary function as well. *Jacks* are very important; they are used to create a line for the piece to break from the punty when it is completed. The *blocks* and *paper* are used for shaping the molten glass. *Tweezers* are used for pulling or twisting and the *shears* are used to cut the glass.

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New Collection Corner Preview

Moving Forward Collection Preview



Imagination is the Highest Kite You Can Fly--
Lauren Bacall, 30x30 oil by Patience Heyl



Sprague Lake, 11x14 oil by Kenneth Shanika



High Point, 9x12 oil by Jeannie Breeding



Your Future Looks Very Bright, 20x16
oil by Janelle Cox

Donna Gordon ★ Colorado native *Donna Gordon* started a career in blowing glass about twelve years ago when she began working with glass in the form of lampworking. She initially setup a home studio in her basement to create this form of glassblowing in which the glass is worked at a table or a bench and using a torch.

In 1999, Donna was drawn to the more complex art of glassblowing which is done by gathering molten glass from a furnace on a punty or blowpipe while using various tools to work and shape the glass. She literally uses her breath to bring molten glass to life in the form of beautiful collectible art glass.

Her passion for blowing glass propelled her into intense studies and advanced training so she could move forward to set-up her own hot shop. At her custom-built studio, she designs and creates her popular signature "hearts" and more complex bowls, wall roundels, vases and other sculpted art glass.



Top Awards & Recognition



Congratulations **Jeannie Breeding!** Jeannie just returned from the Plein Air Artists Colorado paint out in Taos, NM. She captured 4th place out of 38 top artists from Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Minnesota, Kansas and Indiana. Fellow artists made up the judges' panel.



News Flash! Blogging To Keep You Current

Hunter-Wolff Gallery blogs and invites you to respond. We add news info and commentary once a week or more. Resident Gallery Artists contribute as Guest Writers as well. Listen to what they have to say and comment back. Your input is important to us and helps us develop better shows, offer superior artwork and meet your needs. Blog now at www.hunterwolffgallery.com/gallery

Showtime Calendar

June 4 ArtWalk 5-8 p
"Moving Forward"
All Gallery Artists' Show

June 12 "Teach Me Now" 1-3p
Demonstration by Don Hamilton

July 2 ArtWalk 5-8 p
"3D-3 Artists" Exhibit & Reception

Donna Gordon Living Her Dream



Donna focused on perfection

HWG: I understand it can take the better part of your day to complete a single piece. Does everything go to a gallery?

Donna: First I would like to say that occasionally a finished piece crashes before it even gets to the annealer. And, as for the pieces that come out, unfortunately, they do not always pass quality inspection. There may be imperfections in either the clear glass or the color missed during the process or there could be a small crack from the piece getting too cold before it was put into the annealer, or there could even be a bit of a fold where it's not suppose to be in the piece. No, all pieces don't go to a gallery unfortunately.

HWG: Tell us about the recipe for glass and how different colors are added to a single blown piece?

Donna: The basic compounds in the glass are silica, soda and lime. When making colored glass, different oxides or metals are added to achieve the desired color. For example gold makes a very deep ruby red color, cobalt is used for blue and copper is used for blues and green. I purchase all of my color in glass form. The colored glass is sold as *bar* which is solid and monochrome in color and density to frits which are broken into various sizes of chunks ranging from powder size to pea gravel size. The color can be either in a color furnace and gathered just like the clear would be, laid on the marver in piles or designs, then picked up on the hot glass, or a piece of bar can be used in place of the first gather for a solid even color saturation.

HWG: Blowing glass is a very complex business. You've been very busy the past six months with the relocation of your home and shop. Why did you move?

Donna: After having a studio that was open and available to other glassblowers and students for nine years, I decided to discontinue that aspect. I moved my home and private studio which are now in the country where I can better focus on my work.

HWG: That's exciting Donna and I know you still have more work to do setting up your studio before the furnace is hot again. How long does it take for the furnace to be ready?

Donna: It takes eight full days to come up to temperature. Once it is at 2100°, I can start loading the glass. Once the glass is in, I will give it a day or two to make sure that all of the bubbles are out.

HWG: Sounds like you need a vacation soon. What has the biggest hurdle been to move forward with production now that you are in your new location?

Donna: When we moved in it was just a metal structure. I have to make it watertight, insulate, dry wall the interior walls and, most importantly, install windows. In short, the build-out is taking a lot of time.

HWG: Switching gears, what should our patrons consider when collecting glass?

Donna: I can best answer that by sharing an observation made by a collector after a demonstration. He was amazed by the focus, intensity, and hard physical work involved. Once the piece is started there is no stopping until it's done; no going to the restroom, no answering the phone-- there has to be total commitment from the start.

HWG: Good points, Donna. It's been a pleasure representing you for almost four years and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship. I can't wait to see your new building and set-up and all the great pieces that will be coming our way. Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

Donna: When looking at a blown glass vessel keep in mind that the artist who created that piece of glass used their breath to give it life. There is a substance before you that is hard and brittle... unyielding, but when it was made it was so hot and so soft that something as simple as a breath of air could move it--- it's truly amazing!!!



Donna collecting a gather on her pipe



Donna begins her creation with a glowing molten ball



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