



Broome County Arts Council | Artisan Gallery
95 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

Art Connects Us All

Warner K Varno, Scott Yurko, Dave Porter, and Jaleel Campbell

June 5 – August 29, 2020

Artisan Gallery's first virtual exhibition, *Art Connects Us All*, features the work of 4 artists, Warner K Varno, Scott Yurko, Dave Porter, and Jaleel Campbell, from our past exhibitions working in different disciplines or styles but presenting the same vitality through vibrant colors, light and shadow, structure, and composition. This exhibition explores the beauty of subjects and objects from refreshing perspectives that connect our minds in the time of isolation.

Exhibition Checklist

Jaleel Campbell



***Glory*, 2019**
Digital Illustration
16" x 20"
\$300

Glory Showcases an all-black orchestra filled string instruments and the commanding presence of contemporary composer, Marcus Norris.



***My Hittas*, 2020**
Digital Illustration
16" x 20"
\$300

My Hittas portrays the close bond between my friends and I during my time in graduate school.



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***Ladies Night*, 2018**
Digital Illustration
16" x 20"
\$300



***2 Men*, 2016**
Digital Illustration
16" x 20"
\$300

2 men depicts an intimate bond between two well-dressed men during the Harlem renaissance.

Dave Porter



***Twisted Pairs*, 2019**
Painted wood panels
39" x 42"
\$4,500

This piece consists of four horizontal wood relief panels (formerly porch floor joists) mounted on a black background.



***Soap #1*, 2019**
Painted wood relief sculpture
9"w x 10"h
\$300

A small painted wood relief sculpture based on a photograph of some remnants of bars of soap from the shower.



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Soap #2, 2019

Painted wood relief sculpture

13.5" x 16.5"

\$600

A painted wood relief sculpture based on a photograph of some remnants of bars of soap from the shower.



Untitled, 1995

Painted wood relief sculpture

20"w x 24"h

\$1,200

In the mid-1970s I was very active in drawing. One of the drawings became the basis for the Untitled relief sculpture in the show. I didn't work on the relief sculpture until the 1990's. The carving was done on basswood, which is most excellent to carve, but somewhat boring to look at. I think that this demonstrates how most of my work borrows some aspect of previous art forms and mediums and blends them together – in this case I used a drawing as the basis for a relief sculpture, and I used my previous painting background to colorize the relief sculpture.



Acrylic on Canvas, 1992

Acrylic on Size 8 Chuck Taylor All Star sneaker

11.25"l x 4"w x 5"h

\$300

In high school, my favorite footwear was black, low-top, Converse, Chuck Taylor, All Stars – with no socks on. I made several pen-and-ink drawings of sneakers in high school that were quite popular with my high school friends. In college I made a painting that used a disfigured white, high-top Chuck Taylor sneaker. In the 1990's I created 'Acrylic on Canvas' where I gesso'd a black low-top sneaker and painted it back to look like the original – a conceptual piece. More recently I created 'Gesso on Canvas'. Some years ago, I visited the National Gallery of Canada, in Ottawa, and I saw the work of Eric Cameron. Cameron is an artist who painted over household objects with thousands of coats of gesso until the finished pieces bore no resemblance to the original objects embedded within. Cameron's work has stuck with



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me. 'Gesso on Canvas' is a shout-out to Cameron even though my gesso'd sneaker only has about forty coats of gesso on it.



Gesso on Canvas, 2019
Gesso on Size 9 Chuck Taylor All Star sneaker
11.5"l x 4"w x 3.75"h
\$300

Warner K Varno



Root Chakra Paintings; Orangerie I, 2020
Mixed media on canvas
3' x 3'
\$650

This painting feels like it is spinning – like this wallpaper pattern, the juice of life, the joy but it comes with a depth and a density at times that we feel all the way down to the bones of our feet.



Root Chakra Paintings; Orangerie II (The Crow and The Pitcher), 2020
Mixed media on canvas
24" x 36"
\$575



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Be Where Your Hands Are I (Lemon and Fig), 2020
Mixed media on canvas
30" x 40"
\$500



Be Where Your Hands Are II (lemon and fig), 2020
Mixed media on canvas
30" x 40"
\$500

Scott Yurko



Hollyhock, 2018
Oil on canvas
16" x 28"
\$1,200

When one can appreciate pattern and design, painting Holly Hock is a pleasure.



Mangold's Irises (framed), 2016
Oil on canvas
7'10" x 34"
\$9,000

I saw the sun breaking through tree branches illuminating a small patch of my neighbor's Irises after the rain. I had been working on long horizontal landscapes and saw this beautiful moment as an opportunity, a seed that grew into Mangold's Irises.



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***Deconstructing Peonies (triptych)*, 2016**

Oil on canvas
20" x 20" (ea.)
\$1,800

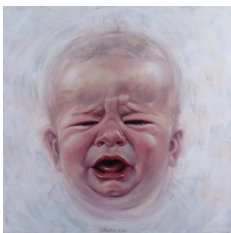
This triptych touches on an artistic desire of mine to distill something to its essence from realism to shape, mass and design to line. Change and transition are inevitable in life as in art. Something I must embrace.



***Commuter Dating*, 2014**

Oil on Canvas
27" x 56"
\$2,200

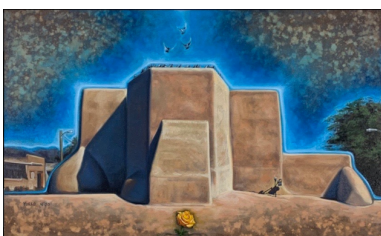
This is my interpretation of shadows cast on the wall of the train station as a woman commutes for a weekend retreat. I love how this piece fits the theme of *Art Connects Us All*.



***Crying Baby*, 2012**

Oil on Canvas
28" x 28"
\$1,600

The simplest description of this piece is that some dear friends stayed with me one summer with their newborn. I made a painting.



***San Francisco de Asis Mission church*, 2020**

Oil on Canvas
36" x 22"
\$1,800

Traveling in New Mexico I felt a remarkable connection to this powerful place. For some reason I had a great desire to tell my mother about it as if she had been there when I knew she hadn't. She passed the following winter without me telling her. In painting this piece, I couldn't get her off my mind. The yellow rose is for her. I feel her connection deeply. Art connects us all.



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Artist Statements

Warner K Varno

Painting for me has become a spiritual practice and when I am in the practice of painting, I feel more whole. When I am working on a piece of artwork, I experience a quieting feeling of calm and a sense of knowing and of trusting my own inclinations.

I am also interested in the amount of focused attention it brings to my lived experience; it is a time of listening and looking and a removal of other distractions. More often than not, I am not directing my paintings from start to finish but allowing for the element of surprise and uncertainty-something that has featured strongly in my own life, to play a role so that there is an organic, almost living element to my artwork. They are not pre-described works of art. They are a practice in trust.

The themes that can be found in my mixed media artwork on canvas include healing and growth-hope, loss and gratitude-joy, a sense of place-embodiment and some amount of storytelling. We are a complex species and the world is more complex than ever currently with our various global challenges; the Coronavirus Pandemic, the pressing issue of Climate change and our politically polarized nation. I address this complexity and at times confusion, through creating layers of imagery and then puzzling out what is to come forward and what may remain veiled or unseen all together. When a painting is finished it is my own humanity that can be found inside these mixed media canvases and quite possibly, the humanity of another.



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Scott Yurko

I am 54 years old. I live alone. I've lived alone since I was 18. I've never been married. I have no children. Art connects me. Painting and art is my connection to my community, the people and the planet.

I am not a teacher, I am very much a student and the act of making art is what teaches me, it's where I connect. I draw, I paint, I sculpt and carve, I stack stones. I see patterns and design in virtually every aspect of life. For me, this is where I find calm, this is where I find answers.

My paintings are very much just that. I paint my life in the people and objects I see and the emotions I feel from seeing them, experiencing them. People, flowers, still lives, landscapes, buildings and animals are all subjects that feed my thirst for knowledge. In painting I try to capture what I get from the subject, it's energy, it's aura, my physical and emotional connection and hopefully, you as the viewer, feel it too. Art connects us all.

As of the end of May, I have spent 87 days in isolation due to the global pandemic. Thank you for allowing me to connect again.



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About the Artists

Jaleel Campbell is a New York based artist whose work ranges from illustration, curating, directing, performing and the latest, Doll making. Jaleel attained his BFA in Visual Communications with a specialization in Graphic Design from Cazenovia College and his MFA in Media Arts & Culture at SUNY Purchase. His passion for creating knows no bounds. It is through these acts that community building comes to the forefront. That is Jaleel's mission and what drives him the most. Whether it be through his illustration work that showcases the often underrepresented, video work that captures the beauty and essence of black life and culture, or even his handmade dolls that aim to honor and acknowledge those who came before us. There is no limit to his genius, and he will continue to keep creating work that reminds black people of their worth while also providing a sense of relief when the weight of the world gets too heavy.



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Dave Porter received a B.A. in Studio Fine Arts from the State University of New York at Albany, where he studied sculpture, painting, and print making with Dennis Byng, Marc Greenburg, Dennis Wilson, Robert Cartmel, and Richard Stankiewicz. Dave also has a BE in Mechanical Engineering from SUNY Stony Brook and a MS in Environmental Engineering from Syracuse University. He is a licensed professional engineer and has worked as a mechanical, environmental, and energy engineer. Prior to his engineering career he was a US Navy Surface Line Officer.

Dave's early art training and work was primarily with oil painting, drawing, and print making. He has transitioned from mostly two-dimensional art to three-dimensional wood sculpture including both relief and freestanding wood sculptures as well as mixed media assemblies – he is more recently active in painting and digital graphic design. Sculptures are usually non-representational or abstract, and paintings have been representational.

He exhibits work in juried and non-juried shows in central New York including the Broome County Arts Council Gallery, Cooperstown National Art Exhibition, Cooperstown Regional Art Show, Schweinfurth Art Museum, Auburn, NY, Kirkland Art Center, Clinton, NY, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia, NY, and Cazenovia Arts, Cazenovia, NY. In 2018, Dave's Cube 18 won best of show in the Cooperstown Art Association National Show.

When not producing art, Dave likes to hang out at Del Parker's Parkerosa.



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Growing up in Central New York, **Warner Varno** has always loved the change of the seasons, weather patterns and geography of the Central New York Region. In particular, Warner enjoys the quality of light and the moisture content found in the air, creating the striking cloud formations and colors of the CNY skies-something that struck her once again upon returning to the area in 2017.

Warner completed her BA in Fine Art and Anthropology at SUNY Potsdam. Following a job as a cultural resource archaeologist at Fort Drum and a year painting furniture for MacKenzie Childs, Warner headed West with a desire to get to know other artists and their work as well as to experience different regions of the country. Warner spent the following several years living, learning, teaching primarily in the Denver area where she completed her MA of Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Denver. Warner participated as an exhibiting member artist for several local art galleries in the Denver area. In 2011, Warner was invited to exhibit several bodies of work; The Japan Birds Series, Chakra Series, House-Nest and Between Heaven and Earth, at The Martha Swift Gallery in Point Loma, CA for an exhibit entitled *Bright Wings*.

Warner has been a professional exhibiting artist since 2002 and a Master Teaching Artist since 2007, teaching visual art at the Secondary and Post-Secondary level as well as through her *Time for Art* Enrichment programs and out of her home studio in DeWitt, NY. Warner exhibited her work at The Artisan Gallery in February of 2019; *Anatomy of Hope*, at Gallery 54 in Skaneateles, at Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus, New York; *Both Sides Now*, at Zip37 Gallery in Denver; *Anatomy of Change* in February of 2017 and *Anatomy of the Spirit* in Gallery Julius at The Schweinfurth Museum and Art Center in Auburn, NY in October of 2016. Warner is currently completing an MFAIA through Goddard College and teaching Visual Art for Liverpool Public Schools.



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Scott Yurko was born in Upstate New York and received a dual A.S. in Commercial Art and Photography in 1986. In 1989, he graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a B.F.A. in Illustration and was later accepted into The United Scenic Artist Local 829, a union of artisans who make and paint scenery for movies, television and theater, in 1992.

Although he has worked in all of these venues, Mr. Yurko spent the vast majority of the past 25 years at The Metropolitan Opera Association in New York City painting the scenery for the Opera, working with many of the top designers, and making their creations come to life, while learning a vast array of products and techniques. He resides on a farm in downstate New York and enjoys traveling, tending his chickens, and painting for “art’s sake” in his spare time.