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Nancy Thomas Curates Pfac's New American Folk Art Show

WYDaily Staff
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Yorktown's Nancy Thomas, a nationally known artist who is also a passionate art collector and gallery owner, has selected over 30 original works from six artists from different parts of the country who represent the "New American Folk Art" for a two-month show at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center in Newport

News.

at The College of William & Mary

"Visionary," "self-taught" and "outsider" are some of the other names of the genre that Thomas says has become the "New American Folk Art."

"This extraordinary, powerful and immensely varied art is rapidly moving into the main stream," says Thomas, "More and more people are seeing it and they love it."

The artists in the show range from a painter living in a small town on the coast of Australia, to a former biochemist who believes "a paintbrush fell from the sky" beginning his career as an artist, to a woman who often creates art in her kitchen to an Episcopalian priest from Yorktown.

The Reverend Carleton Bakkum, originally from Dalton, Georgia, is now Rector of the historic Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown. Bakkum has been creating his unique work for 14 years, but it will be shown publicly for only the third time at this Pfac show.

Other artists include:


Michael Banks – An African-American from Mobile, AL, Banks paints his images on roofing tar applied to plywood and then incises them with tools for added highlights, and then he gives them wonderful names like "Run like Hell," "Saturn's Maid" and "I like this one." "It's headed for the Museum of Modern Art," Thomas says of his art.


Tres Taylor – The former biochemist, Taylor is also from Alabama – though he has lived everywhere from Philadelphia to Japan – and also paints on tar, but with house paints, acrylics and putty, and to quite different effect.

Glenn Brady – Widely popular in his native Australia, Brady had several other careers (including "playing in noisy bands") and has gone through rough patches in his life which have helped shape his art. In 1993 Glenn says "all these ideas... just came out, and it hasn't stopped since."



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