

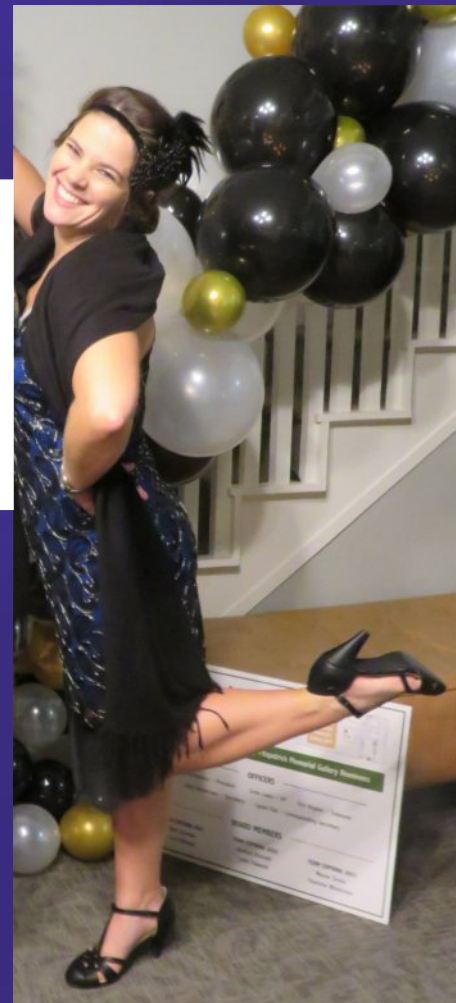
THE KELLY

November 2020

Canvas



"Joy to the World"
by Carol Hickman



Cover collage and quilt by LJ Christensen



**Thanks,
Corporate Sponsors!**



and individual sponsors!

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- **Kathy and Jerry Willis**

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Join the Kelly

\$50-Kelly Supporter

\$100-The Kelly's Friend

\$250-Advocate of the Arts

\$500-Patron of the Arts

\$1000-Kelly Benefactor

\$2500 Fitzpatrick Fellow

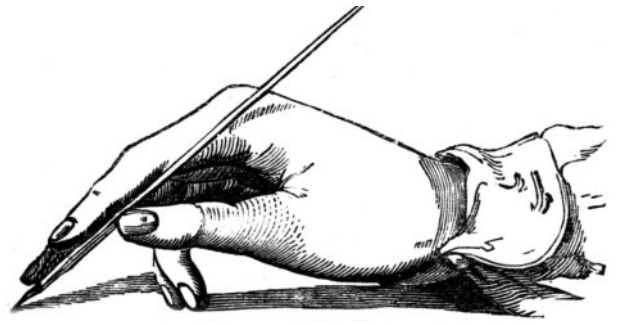
\$5000-Kelly Fitzpatrick Finest



**Click on the
"Kelly" green
ornament to join!**

The Kelly has non-profit 501(c)3 status.

Letter from the President



BRING IT ON, 2021!!!

We have persevered 2020 despite everything. We at **The Kelly** can say we have done more with less and are very well situated for 2021. **We have been blessed. We have received numerous grants to bring art to our community and to sustain our organization. We have our own building. We have had an intern. We have a hard-working board and devoted volunteers.** The Kelly has personally been a bright spot for me this year. I continue to be inspired by how everyone works well with each other and steps up when needed.

The timing of opening our doors at our new building will coincide with the premiere of the HGTV *Home Town Takeover* show. The tourists will be walking our streets and enjoying our gallery. We are on the rise and want you to be a part of our future. Please join if you haven't already. You can join on-line at ***thekelly.org*** or call Kathy Willis at 334-328-0249 if you have misplaced your membership card and need some help.

We have three exciting shows in 2021. The first one is titled ***Hearth and Home***. It is **honoring the art and handwork of the past and present that didn't require a brush or a canvas.** The Kelly believes that there is art all around us and in many forms beyond what we see on a canvas; this show honors those artists and their creations.

The second show is titled ***"The Folks": Experiencing Visions of Self-Taught Southern Artists***. This show is essential raw art, art that is made outside the tradition of fine art. **We are teaming with Marcia Weber** and have some of the outstanding artists in this genre as part of this show and anticipate a broad audience for this exhibit.

Our third exhibit is in **partnership with the Poarch Creek Indians**. This exhibit will feature not only art but **crafts, history and culture**. Still in the planning phases, it particularly excites me to have this unique opportunity to not only showcase, but educate us all on their traditional crafts. We hope to have workshops on some of their traditional arts to further this experience.

We will continue to honor our namesake, Kelly Fitzpatrick, through our permanent collection and artifacts. We have applied for a grant that will allow us to preserve our history through a booklet that tells our history and will be used for educational outreach. We also plan to take our artifacts, which are in a very loosely held together scrapbook, have them photographed and preserved in a book format. The projects continue as will the exhibits, workshops and Tuesday with Kelly meetings.

BRING IT ON, 2021!!!

Belyn Richardson

Purchase “Dollar Days” by Kelly Fitzpatrick, 1938, a limited edition print

Limited Edition

Kelly Fitzpatrick Numbered Prints

Only 50 Available

Print only ~ \$100.00

Framed Print ~ \$225.00



“Ritzy” members
admiring the
framed print at the
Membership Party.



ARTISTS MARKET



- Kathy Atchison-pastels
- Wayne Atchison-photography
- Libby Christensen-quilts, quilted items, Daisychain necklaces, photos
- Rich Brown-photography
- Henrietta Cappelli-earrings
- Stephen Cappelli-pottery
- Mit Fontaine-photography
- Wanda Fontaine-jewelry, crocheted items
- Carol Hickman-paintings
- Linda Lee-paintings
- Jennifer Levins-paintings, prints, cards and painted ornaments
- Linda Lewis-paintings
- Nick Nyberg-wood and recycled art
- Donna Pate-paintings, prints, cards
- Emily Roney-stone pendant necklaces
- Joanne Staley-handmade silver/copper jewelry, paintings
- Jenny Stubbs-Wetumpka book, cards
- Neill Thompson-wood items
- Adelia Turner-small paintings
- Shellie Whitfield-prints



Make Your List--Come Shop Twice!

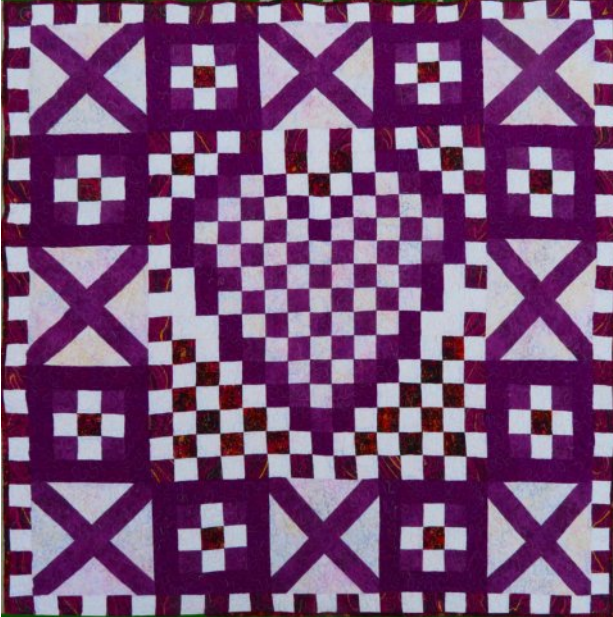
Fri., Dec. 4, 4–8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6, 12–3 p.m.

Dec. 11, 1–5 p.m.
Dec. 12, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Join us when The Kelly turns our old Wetumpka bank building into a shoppers' paradise. With art ranging in size, price, and medium, there'll be something for everyone. It'll be open for the first two weekends in December, coinciding with the Dickens Festival and the Christmas on the Coosa. Kelly members receive a 10% discount on Dec. 4.

Covid-safe, we'll be wearing masks and limiting the number inside.

First come, first serve!



Kicking up Heels at Membership Party



Great couple



Swish!



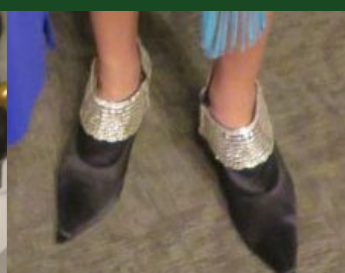
Best mask



Best diamonds



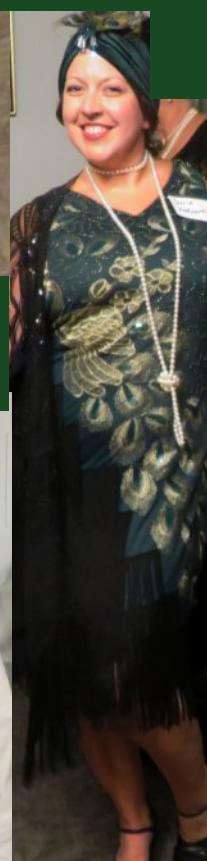
Great decor



Wow!



Dressed to kill



Beads!



Great sequins

2020- 2021 Executive Board Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery Nominees

OFFICERS

Belyn Richardson ~ President Linda Lewis ~ VP Erin Rogers ~ Treasurer
Libby Christensen ~ Secretary Lynda Fain ~ Corresponding Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

TERM EXPIRING 2021

Beth Coleman
Carol Hickman

TERM EXPIRING 2022

Barbara Bennett
Justin Edwards

TERM EXPIRING 2023

Wayne Turner
Charlotte Whetstone



Great beret



Best turban

Election of new 2021 Kelly Board



Gloves



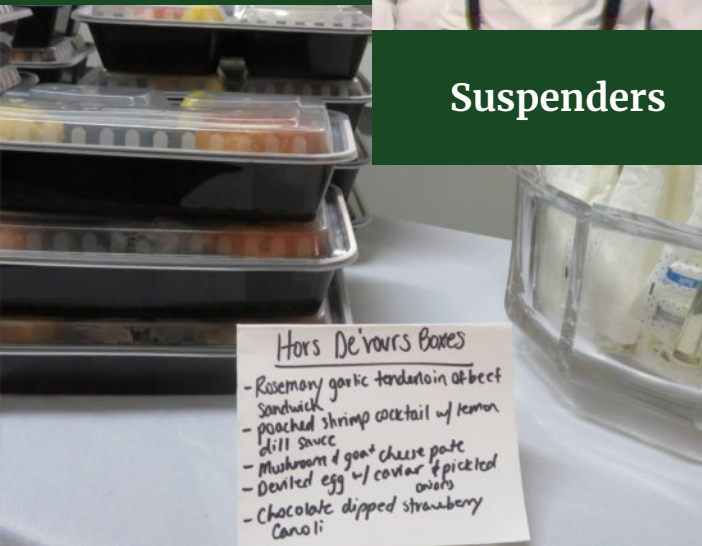
Suspenders



Best boa



Best feather



"Safe" food

Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery Story—Volume I



Once upon a time...many years ago, Kelly Fitzpatrick, the memorial gallery, was born in Wetumpka. He was held in the loving arms of the City Administration Building, where it was light and bright, and life was beautiful. He grew up to be strong and happy there.

Then one winter day, a very wicked twister blew in, ravaging the town and destroying the police building. What Kelly didn't realize was that he, too, would be displaced because the police needed his space. His friends on the Kelly Board all pitched in to help him move out. They carried out all his belongings, his furnishings, paintings, and supplies. He was left homeless, sleeping on friends' couches, but the Episcopal Church took pity on him and let him stay there. His friends came to meet him there. All his possessions were in storage, but he was grateful to have a place to roost, just nowhere to call his own.

His friends on the Kelly Board looked high and low for a new home for Kelly. Belyn Richardson, his realtor, kept her eye on every possible property that came available. Wayne Turner, his attorney, looked into mortgages. A whole committee inspected every possibility, close and far. They looked at businesses and houses. They even talked to owners of vacant lots and considered building from scratch. No place felt right. Wrong location, no parking, too big, too small, too run-down.

One fine day, things looked up. The Alabama Power building came on the market. It seemed perfect, with parking and storage. Unfortunately, the cost was just too high. Kelly was disappointed, but Alabama Power, being very kind and generous, took pity on Kelly, giving him a precious grant, enough for a nest egg. Kelly was thrilled with the gift, but still disappointed because he couldn't find the right space.

Finally, the Chamber of Commerce stepped in and offered to let him rent the old bank building. It was so beautiful, historic, with high ceilings and extra storage room, and it was right in the center of town. He was very grateful indeed and happy to be part of the long history of the building. His friends helped him settle in.

Then the big, bad Covid monstrosity came to town. Just when Kelly was all excited and ready to host exhibits and receptions, his world locked down. To make things worse, the Chamber wanted to sell the building, but it was just too expensive for him. His budget just wouldn't stretch that far. He was worried and afraid of being out in the streets again, maybe having to sleep in a car. The Board members had no answer. Everyone was sad. They frowned behind their masks.

But one day a serendipitous miracle occurred! Belyn, the realtor, ran into Pete Powers, a builder, and just happened to discuss Kelly's plight. Pete had the answer. He owned the old Austin's flower shop on Company Street. It needed extensive repair, but the location was wonderful, in the center of town, yet fairly near parking. With quick approval from the Board, Belyn negotiated a deal with Pete to buy the property and renovate it to Kelly's very own specs. With his precious nest egg from Alabama Power and with several grants from the government due to Covid conditions, he had enough money to buy a new home outright with no mortgage. He's now excited and happy again, knowing that he will have a home to call his own.

Believe in friends, patience, and sometimes a little miracle. All will soon be well for Kelly, and thankfully, he's locked down and hasn't gotten the coronavirus. Not The End, just the beginning.

--Libby J. Christensen

The New(ish) Kelly: an Artistic Vision

When the Board met at the old Austin's flower shop to consider buying the property, they took along their combined artistic vision, which they definitely needed. **The location was good, the price was great, and there was parking nearby.** Storage might be an issue because the space is not large; however, there is possibly room for a future storage space in the back of the property. When renovated, this space will be a wonderful home for The Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery. In fact, the Board noted some great pluses! ? Laugh to keep from crying!

(See photos below by L.J. Christensen.)



Wall art



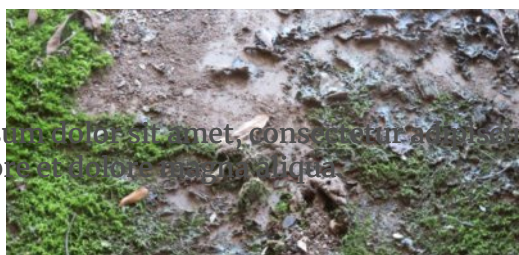
Lovely awning



Across from The Alley



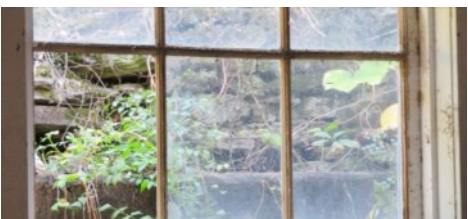
Normal text — Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.



Built-in terrarium



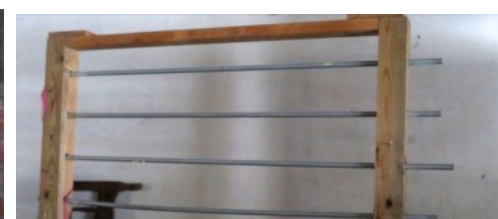
Storeroom



Air conditioning



Original brick wall



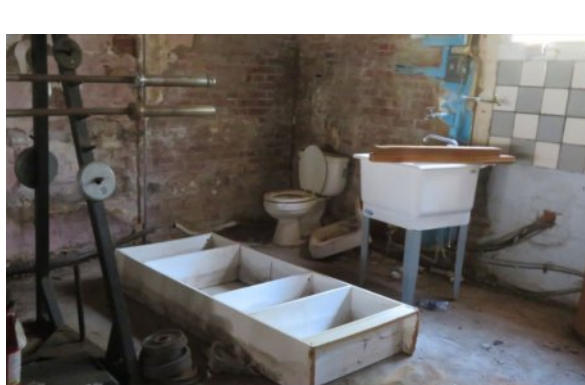
Quilt rack



Exposed beams



Vases



Restroom



Pedestal



Kelly
Fitzpatrick's
Home
on West
Tuskeena Street
in Wetumpka

(All photos by Mit
Fontaine]



Kelly Fitzpatrick and Colleagues: *Legends and Legacies*

When Kelly member Joe Allen Turner was a boy, he knew “Mr. Fitzpatrick” as “a very nice man” whom he’d often see walking down the street. One time Joe Allan went to his home and was surprised to see that he “apparently lived in just a couple rooms” of his big house.

The background story is that Kelly Fitzpatrick joined the Army in 1918 at age 30, went to fight in France during WWI and was “severely wounded by shrapnel” in his upper torso and face almost immediately that same year. According to Margaret Lynne Ausfeld of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, “This experience colored his outlook profoundly, and he later wrote that his physical suffering caused him to lose interest in the material world and focus instead on the beautiful and spiritual aspects of life” (“John Kelly Fitzpatrick.” 2018. *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1155>).

Clearly, after the war, Fitzpatrick pursued painting with a passion. In his early 20’s, he had studied for a time at the Chicago Institute of Art; then after the war, he enjoyed the opportunity to return to France and spend a few months studying art at the Académie Julian. Interestingly, Joe Allen Turner lent The Kelly a painting Fitzpatrick did during that 1926 visit to France (right).



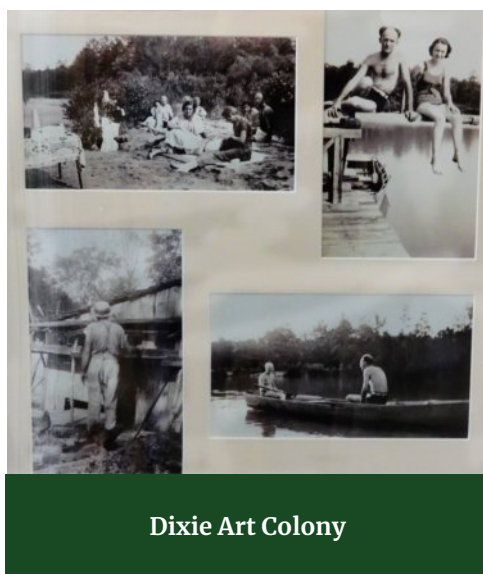
Kelly Fitzpatrick’s painting of Versailles, June 1926

The Johnson Collection of art comments that Fitzpatrick was much influenced by the French artists of the period: “[He was]...inspired by the work of the Fauves and the Post-Impressionists. When he returned to Alabama the following year he incorporated bright colors and exaggerated lines into his depictions of the Southern landscape”(“Fitzpatrick, Kelly (1888-1953). 2020. *The Johnson Collection*. <https://thejohnsoncollection.org/kelly-fitzpatrick/>).

Fitzpatrick worked for some time painting post offices for \$38 a week in the 1930's for the New Deal's Public Works of Art Program (Ausfield, M.L. "John Kelly Fitzpatrick." 2018. *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1155>). He is known more for his work with his colleagues, however, as a teacher and group leader. While he was raised in a "life of privilege" as son of a physician and grandson of an Alabama governor, he spent his adult life living humbly while encouraging aspiring artists, helping them find venues for exhibitions. Margaret Lynne Ausfeld and Christine C. Neal [of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts] wrote of "how Fitzpatrick managed to channel his love for art into a public service by taking a large role in creating institutions" ("The World of Kelly Fitzpatrick." [feature abstract] *Alabama Heritage*. <https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-41-summer-1996.html>).

Fitzpatrick and a small group of colleagues founded the Alabama Art League to look for places to set up exhibitions. This led eventually to the founding of the Montgomery Museum of Art in 1930, for which he was on the founding Board of Directors. ("Fitzpatrick, Kelly (1888-1953)." The Johnson Collection. <https://thejohnsoncollection.org/kelly-fitzpatrick/>) In fact, according to Ausfield, he was instrumental in collecting art and funds for them: "Through personal donations and assistance from his contacts in the federal relief programs, Fitzpatrick established the museum's original art collection...." ("John Kelly Fitzpatrick." *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1155>)

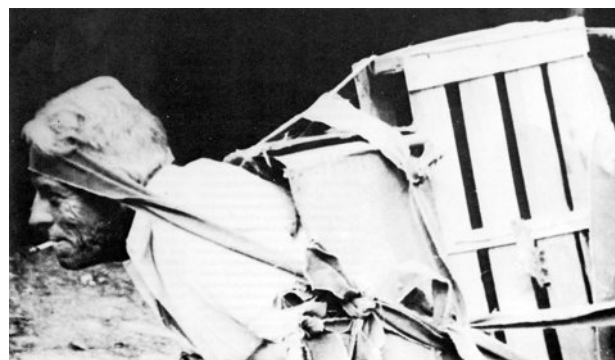
In 1930 he and several friends established an art retreat by Lake Jordan, where they could paint, swim, and enjoy nature. (See scrapbook photos to right.) Fitzpatrick particularly enjoyed taking them to paint *en plein air* [outside]. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts has a delightful photo of him, packed up go paint (right bottom). Known as The Dixie Art Colony, this summer camp has been called a "bohemian retreat" -- rightly so! (Williams, L. B. "The Dixie Art Colony." *Alabama Heritage*. <https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-41-summer-1996.html>) Whatever it is called, it certainly attracted and inspired a wonderful group of painters.



Dixie Art Colony

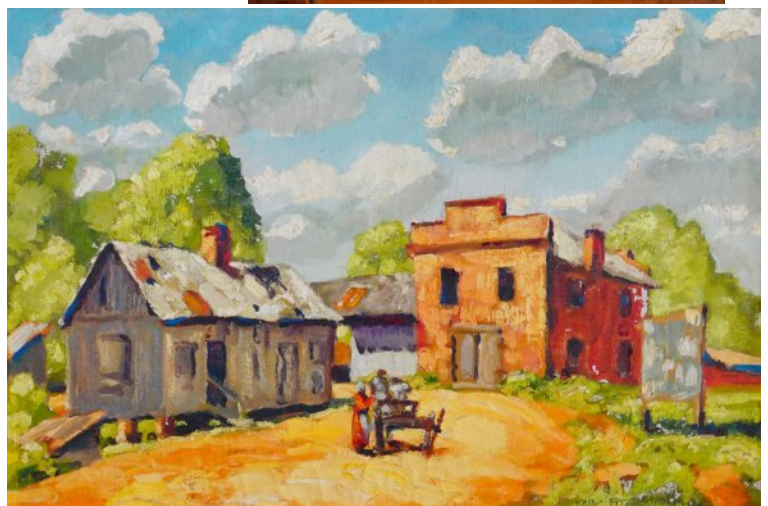
The Kelly was lucky enough to have many members and friends contribute works by Fitzpatrick and his colleagues to the recent *Legends and Legacies* exhibit to supplement its own collection. It was an exciting exhibit. If you missed it, there is a taste on the next two pages. For more information, contact Carol Hickman, Curator, who has the details of the artists, titles and current owners (334)391-5090.

L.J. Christensen



"Fitzpatrick Heading Off to Paint," 1940
(<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2580>)

Kelly Fitzpatrick and Colleagues: The Legacies Continue



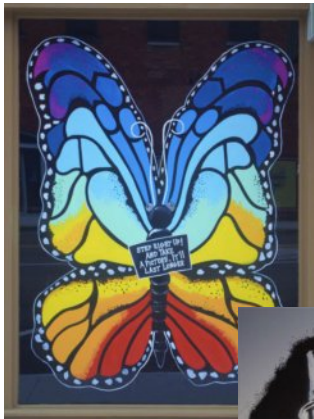


Steve Lee: Sign Painter Extraordinaire



In the August Tuesday with Kelly, we were charmed to meet Steve Lee, who has

Painted many windows around Wetumpka and the surrounding area. He also sings and composes. Most interestingly, he told us about meeting real zombies. He explained how they grunted and walked strangely due to a way they “poisoned” themselves by removing all potassium to become closer to death and therefore more “spiritual.” Certainly, that raised a lot of questions. As for his artwork—it speaks for itself. Carol Hickman took photos of much of his local work, shown here. How many locations can do you recognize?





Libby Christensen: “The Art in Quilting” JANUARY 19, 2021

Is quilting a craft or an art? “Yes,” claims Libby Christensen, “it’s both.” She says that it ranges from a simplistic “color by number” to an amazing medium for artistic design and expression. Clearly it has color and design, but in her talk, she’ll show samples and point out some other artistic elements.

Libby says she’s been sewing since age 5 when she made a simple doll’s dress and pieced a doll quilt. She was embroidering and designing dresses by age 7 and sewing clothes by 11. At age 16, she made almost all her clothes, including prom dresses, a lined wool suit and a trench coat. In college, she worked part-time as a paid costume designer for her university theater.

After attending Vanderbilt for a Master’s of Art in Teaching, Libby spent 42 years teaching English at six different universities while she and her husband traveled for the USAF, including nine years in England, Italy, and Germany as well as N. Dakota and Montana, which she admits were almost as foreign. Most recently, she taught about 10 years for South University in Montgomery.

When Libby retired, she went back to her “roots.” “I really missed the creativity—there’s only so much red embellishment you can mark on papers!” she exclaims. So she created her own website, www.sewgocreate.com, with her downloadable patterns for “Quilts and Cute Quilted Items.” She has published over 80 original Christensen Creations patterns. Last year she had an addition built on her home for her Sewing Studio, which now houses a king-sized quilting machine along with several sewing and/or embroidery machines, a serger and 1000’s of yards of fabric. “Fabric, to a quilter, is like paints to a painter--the pigment of the creation.”

“I’m really NOT a master quilter,” Libby says, “but I’m learning. My forte is in the design and clear patterns with lots of diagrams.” She does have a lot of samples, though, because she makes one for each design. As her pile of samples is getting overwhelming, she is now selling many of her samples at **Market Shoppes in Wetumpka**, each one not only unique, but a “designer original.”

Libby has been a member of **The Kelly** almost from the start, often entering her photographs in various exhibits. She’s had several photos published in *Best of Photography* annuals and this year had some selected for an international online exhibit called *See Me*. Sometimes she combines her photography with quilting and often exhibits artistic wall hangings in local contests, winning Best of Show with a photo quilt at SAC’s Water Show in 2018.

Her support of **The Kelly** increased last year when she agreed to be Secretary for the Board. She edits *The Kelly Canvas* and *Kelly Canvas News Clips*, too. Christensen Creations also gave a large donation to sponsor the *Home and Hearth* exhibit/reception. “It’s close to my heart,” Libby explains; “besides sewing and quilting, I also knit, crochet, embroider, do beadwork and have even hooked rugs. My mother and I tackled anything and everything that used a needle—it’s in my blood.”

Come hear Libby’s talk and see her beautiful handiwork on Jan. 19, at noon. Bring a sack lunch; she’ll provide dessert and some interesting door prizes, and **The Kelly** will provide drinks.

Home & Hearth Exhibit

January 15, 2021 – April 28, 2021

The Kelly is excited to announce an exhibition called **Home and Hearth**. This idea has been a personal dream of mine for several years. Many people use their creative talents to make the lives of their family better by creating beautiful items for their homes and family members. Many do this with no praise or accolades. They do it for the love of creating and giving to others. They are the unsung heroes to their families. This exhibit will showcase hand-made items for the home and family.

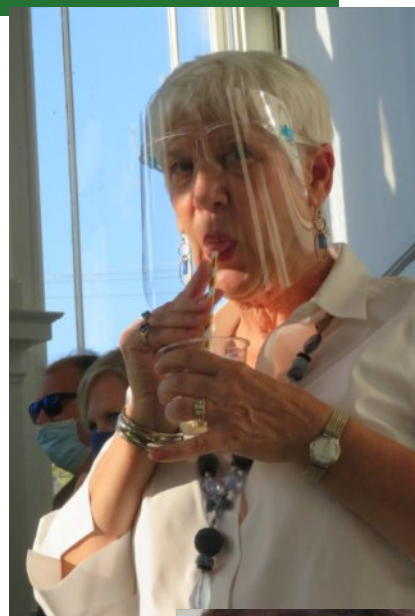
Carol Hickman, Curator

(334) 391-5090 Call for a prospectus-entries due Dec. 10

Items that will be considered for this exhibition include the following categories:

- A) **Quilts**—twin, double or queen bed size
- B) **Quilted wall hangings**
- C) **Other quilted items**, such as purses, hot pads, bowls, etc.
- D) **Knitted items**—blankets, items of clothing, heirloom items, etc.
- E) **Crochet items** – blankets, items of clothing, heirloom items, etc.
- F) **Needlework**—crewel embroidery, needle point, counted cross stitch, etc.
- G) **Hand-made clothing**—heirloom hand sewing, smocking, appliqué, quilted, etc

Some Seasonal Highlights



Editor-Libby J. Christensen
Photographers-Mit Fontaine, Carol Hickman
and Libby J. Christensen

