

Merry Arttoones, M.F.A.

2871 N. Lone Dove Trail

Tucson, AZ 85749

520-749-7456

E-mail: charles2721@msn.com

Web: <http://www.arttoones.com>

M.F.A. , PAINTING

Maryland Institute of College of Art (MICA) Hoffberger Graduate School

Baltimore, MD

Recipient, **Scholarship, 1981-83**

Recipient, **Walters Graduate Traveling Fellowship, Italy, 1983**

B.A., STUDIO ART

Mary Washington College

Fredericksburg, VA

Phi Beta Kappa

Highest Honors (Summa Cum Laude)

Danforth Fellowship Nominee and National Semi-Finalist;

Awards: Painting, Drawing, Pottery, Sculpture.

GENERAL FINE ARTS

Corcoran Museum School,

Washington, D.C.

Awards: Painting & Drawing

BRONZE and CLAY WORKSHOPS

Pima Community College

Awards: 3-D & Clay

Tucson, AZ

Selected One Person Shows:

- “ArtToones: NARRATIVE SCULPTURE”FALL 2011
One Person Show, Bronze and Clay Sculptures, Las Cruces Museum of Art, New Mexico
- “TRANSCENDENCE: GROUND X”2001
One Person Show, Painting/Assemblage; Montage Gallery,. Baltimore, MD
- “SURVIVING THE DESERT OF THE REAL”2000
One Person Show, Painting/Assemblage; Montage Gallery; Baltimore, MD Cataloged
- “LANDSCAPES FROM THE EDGE”1999
One Person Show, Painting /Assemblage;Montage Gallery ; Baltimore, MD.....Cataloged
- “QUO VADIMUS: Where are We Going?” 1997
One Person Show, Painting; Mill River Gallery; Ellicott City Maryland

Selected Group Shows:

- BIENNIAL, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Va, Assemblage..... SCULPTURE AWARD
- BIENNIAL Las Cruces Museum of Art, “From The Ground Up” Clay..... 2009
- BIENNIAL Las Cruces Museum of Art, “From The Ground Up” Clay..... 2011
- “PAPER” Target Gallery, Alexandria VA, 3-D Drawings..... BEST IN SHOW AWARD
- BIENNIAL, Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, Tenn. ,Assemblage/Sculpture
- Halpert BIENNIAL, Boone, North Carolina, Painting..... CATALOGED

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Selected Group Shows, Continued:

- Gallery 801**, *Ceramic Sculpture Studio Tour Show, Tucson, AZ*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
“The Nature of Tile” *Edina Art Center, Minnesota*.....
- Baltimore Museum of Art**, *Maryland Art Council Show, Balto, Md.*
- Portsmouth Museum of Art**, *Cast Paper, VA*... **BEST IN SHOW PURCHASE AWARD**
“Emergency”, *Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD.* , *Assemblage/Sculpture*
“Convictions,” 3–Person Show; *School 33 Gallery, Balto, MD.*, *Sculpture/Assemblage*
- Abilene Museum of Art**, *Texas, Painting.*
- Springfield Museum of Art** “Watercolor USA”..... **CATALOGED**
“Reality Check”, *painting & Assemblage, Mill River Gallery, Maryland*
“Paper Stone Scissors” 3-D Drawing, *Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
“Assemblage”; 5-Person Show, *Dupont Gallery, Mary Washington University, VA.*
- Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts**, *Va. Festival, Painting*..... **AWARD**
“Catholic Artists of the Eighties”, **Fordham University**, *New York City, NY*
“Justice and the Arts”, *Group Show Baltimore Maryland*
“Visions of the Spiritual Dimension”, *Armory Art Place Gallery, Baltimore, MD*
Maryland Artists Show, College Galleries of Baltimore, Painting..... **AWARD**
“Advanced Notices” **Artscape**, *Balto, MD, Painting/Assemblage*
Shelley Holzimer Gallery, Painting/Assemblage; Minneapolis, Minn.
- Three Rivers Art Festival**, *Sculpture/assemblage, Philadelphia, PA*
Marshall Award Show, Painting Torpedo Factory Gallery, Alex., VA..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Washington County Museum of Art**, *VA* , *Painting*
Art Calendar Magazine, Painting, Crabbie Award Grand Prize..... **COVER ART**
CIVA Show, Montreal Canada, Painting
Fish Out of Water, Baltimore’s Version of Chicago’s Cows..... **CATALOGED**
- Ceramic Research Center**, *Juried Studio Tour, Phoenix Arizona*
- Clay & Line**, *Washington Women’s Art Center, Washington, D.C.*
- Phelps Art Gallery**, *Reisterstown Maryland*
- Gallery 805**, *Fredericksburg, VA*
- Harrisonberg Art Festival**, *Va* **BEST IN SHOW**
- Ghent Arts Festival**, *Virginia*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Manassas Art Festival** *Virginia*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Colonial Beach Art Festival**, *Virginia*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Woodbridge Art Guild**, *Virginia*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Torpedo Faction Printmaking Show**, **FIRST PLACE**
- Second Street Gallery**, *Charlottesville, Va* **FIRST PLACE**
- Colonial Heights Art Festival**, *Va*..... **BEST IN SHOW**
- Ocean City Arts Festival**, *Maryland*..... **AWARD**
- Maryland Printmakers**, *Juried Group Show, Baltimore, MD*
“New Faces”, *Washington Women’s Art Center*..... **CATALOGED**

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Artist's Statement

Six years ago, musing on the tendency in the culture to replace meaningful action with empty gesture, I sketched an idea for a new series. Playing with the words gesture and jester, an "**Empty JESTure**" character materialized: rotund, hollow, cartoonish, and armless with gesturing arms emerging from its jester's hat. His tale had to be told in the round ...the emptiness revealed as the viewer circled each piece...the narrative unfolding, as in a book. But I was moving to Tucson. It would be three years before I could revisit the sketches.

Settled in Arizona, I concentrated on creating a sculptural language for the new series. What has evolved is a stand-up comedic tale, using the language of whimsy to disarm, while examining serious subjects. Within this comedic routine, additional characters evolved beyond the "**Empty JESTure**", and somewhere along the way **thought bubbles** appeared.. The characters include, the **white rabbit** of "Alice in Wonderland" -- observant, too-late aware, appalled, and often in big trouble. Then there is "**Thunderfoot**", a child creature, combining the good cheer of Tolkein's hobbits, Lewis Carroll's common sense Alice, Twain's adventuresome Huckleberry Finn and my own childhood contrariness. **Thunderfoot** is aware, amused, active...no empty gestures here... and sports huge feet because, "She always knows where she stands." The children often carry a backpack stuffed with favorite books and a ruler to 'take the measure of things'. Just think of them as "Hummels with attitudes!"

With all these ideas whirling around my studio, the monetary crisis broke. Well you know I just had to do a piece about the bail out! Of course it would be a Piggy Bank...a Winged Pig....I was thinking about a tale in Lewis Carroll's " Alice Through the Looking Glass" The story is of a Walrus who entices oysters from their safe sea bed to the shorewith promise of a treat... Of course the Old Oysters knew better....but the young ones eagerly hopped on the shore. The lying walrus intones: "**The time has come.....to speak of many things: of shoes, and ships...and sealing-wax, Of cabbages--and kings---And why the sea is boiling hot---and whether pigs have wings!**" The walrus proceeds to prepare to eat the hapless oysters despite their protestations that "**After such kindness, that would be a dismal thing to do!**" In Carroll's take, the walrus weeps and sympathizes as he picks out the largest to eat first... In my tale the walrus supervises the bail out, sitting confidently next to the slot in the pigs back...Funny, no one has put any money in this piggy.

So, hence a ponderous pig with tiny wings that won't fly, and atop sits my *Empty JESTure* character. He proffers with his *jester hat hands* a carrot and a sickly looking blue bird of happiness. Ahh, but go to the rear. The other hand holds a glittery nest --- a lovely blue nest egg within. Ahh, but look closer! That's not a hand! It's a snake! The rabbit is there, in trouble as usual, crushed beneath the weight of the pig's head. Just to add to the chuckles...the pig's tail is a giant fish hook and a chain from nose to ear is juxtaposed with daisy decor. Since enough is not enough added to his hide are numerous weeping, hand wringing mimes.

But there stands a **Thunderfoot** child! Dressed as a doctor, her cartoon thought bubble offers a remedy, "Take Two Pills and Call God in the Morning". The other side completes the prescription: the two pills as it were, "Introspection and Circumspection." Her backpack contains a magnifying glass to read the fine print. All this stands on a gilt edged base covered with carrot

