

## Candace Silver



The title of Candace Silver's exhibit, "Something Else," evolved from her previous show entitled "This, That, and the Other Thing." "Something Else" is a cornucopia of Candace's other talents: oil paintings, watercolors, and what one might term "centrifugal foliage" photos. We are treated to a look at the colorful world of Candace in paintings and photos that are inspired by nature as well as a few items that spring from the deep well of her imaginative mind.

Candace has about half a dozen watercolors ready for framing, some done in Vermont at her sweetheart's home, and some done right there in the woods of Charlemont where she lives on the edge of a spring-fed pond that teems with life of all kinds—turtles, newts, birds, insects, fish. One detailed painting of a fissure in a tree takes its texture from the tree itself: "I wet down the paper and



scrubbed it into the tree," admitted Candace, laughing.

Her foliage photos are abstract works of whirling color. "The colors of the trees are so spectacular, but I'm not going to take the same fall pictures that everyone takes. How do I capture all that color without it being the same old dull boring scene?" Not photoshopped, but done by a method she learned in photography class at GCC. (Candace never digitally manipulates her photos, yet they are some of the most abstract works that she does.) The method? "I gave it a long shutter speed and spun the lens while the shutter was open."

She is able to produce her photo prints on canvas right at home on a large format color printer in her front room. She seals the surface and mounts the image like a painting, on stretcher bars.

Her oil paintings for the show range from spare floral studies and minimalist landscapes to sensual waves and ripples in shades of crimson. "I used some shriveled up tulip petals to help get the shapes more defined" Candace said. Her beautiful studio is a log cabin next to the main house built

by her sweetheart from trees that grew there on her land.



Candace can't remember a time she wasn't painting or constructing something. "I've known since I was three that I wanted to be an artist when I grew up, I've always known that. I just love what I am doing and I feel I have reached a level of competence that I am pleased with. I can hardly wait to see what's going to happen next!"

Raised in the Ozarks, she spent much of her adult life in Tennessee. Like many female artists, raising a family became her main creative endeavor for many years. While visiting with some friends she met from Ashfield in 1986 Candace fell in love with the town. "I was not even out of the car, it was just my foot sticking out the door, but I was like --'This is it, I am home!' It was strong, intense. I determined then that I would move here one day" recalled Candace. During the winter of 1996 she arrived in town to 6 feet of snow and the welcoming arms of a diverse arts



community.

She also arrived "desperate to get creative energy going again" which led her to take former co-op member Julie Hall Rocke's watercolor painting class. Instruction at Greenfield Community College in oil painting and photography opened further avenues of expression.

Candace joined the co-op around 2003 and says being part of the group has been inspiring for her. Candace counts on her time there for some socializing to balance the solitary art-making time in her home studio. As she puts it “It’s been an amazing evolution being here, the people are so awesome. I never felt like I belonged in Tennessee. I feel like I belong here, we’re all artsy-fartsy oddballs and we all accept that we’re oddballs and so we get along.” And we all benefit from Candace’s positive outlook and good humor in addition to her unique artwork!