

DISTINCTION



CULTURE,
DINING & STYLE

Glass Wheel Studio

February 20, 2016 By ADMINEJ — Leave a Comment



Nature-inspired works by Jon Goldberg are framed by Robin Rogers' geodesic domes.

by TERESA ANNAS *photography by* TODD WRIGHT

Norfolk philanthropists Doug and Pat Perry wanted to foster the city's growing interest in glass art, so two years ago they started work on a project that would ultimately become the Glass Wheel Studio.

The new space, on West Olney Road in the NEON arts district, opened in November with a dozen mostly Norfolk-based artists in residence and two galleries for changing exhibitions of cutting-edge art. It's a few blocks from the Chrysler Museum of Art's glass studio, which the Perrys also were crucial to establishing. (Doug Perry is co-founder of Dollar Tree, a Fortune 500 company.)

Glass Wheel is unique as a place where artists who work in glass and other media can share ideas, critique one another and even collaborate. Visitors are welcome. But while most of the artists love pop-ins, they will shut their doors if immersed in a project.

So, here's a peek into what's behind those doors, closed or otherwise.

Neon Wallpaper is by Liz Berk.

Ali Feeney | Studio 201

Feeney, 23, works primarily in glass but blends in fabric, neon or whatever else is needed to tell a story. Her latest narrative digs into the fluid nature of memory, and features images of mountains, wild animals and family photos from her Colorado childhood. The series was inspired by communication with her birth mother, which led her to re-evaluate her memories as an adoptee. She moved to Norfolk last June, after graduating from Alfred University, to work in the Chrysler Museum glass studio.

Jenn Sleeper | Studio 203

Sleeper works in stained glass but with a surprising angle: She depicts human anatomy. She spent years as an ultrasound technician, took up stained glass, and designed and made a see-through liver, which shows both the organ's front and back sections better than drawings can. That innovation prompted the artist, now 41, to start a series, still in progress. "I've got all kinds of anatomical ideas buzzing around," she says. One example: a nervous system with light throbbing through, suggesting electrical pulses.

Heidi Peelen's work, above, blends fluidity and snark.

Heidi Peelen | Studio 204

Peelen, 26, is bothered by her fellow millennial women who expose themselves, hyping their lives, showing too much on social media. Her female portraits marry scanned drawings to digital wizardry. In her studio, she's developing a new series, perhaps building on her drawings of smoking women, with snarky captions.

Hannah Kirkpatrick created Labor of Love EKG – one of the building's signature public pieces.

Hannah Kirkpatrick | Studio 205

Just outside Kirkpatrick's studio is a signature public artwork at Glass Wheel. Her *Labor of Love EKG*, set high on an exterior wall, is a 24-foot-long installation with a neon EKG floating over the painted title phrase. The concept pairs the idea of an artist's labors with a heartbeat. Kirkpatrick, 27, moved to Norfolk in 2011 to

work at the Chrysler's glass studio after graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design. She focuses on light as a material, using glass, photography and neon. Her first studio project was to build a camera obscura out of a crate for a show at the glass studio.

Maggie Bush's space features her work challenging cultural ideals of women's bodies.

Maggie Bush | Studio 301

Bush retired from the Navy in 2012 and went after her long-desired art degree from Old Dominion University. Now 48, she's painting gargantuan women who are less than perfect, with bellies bulging out of tight jeans, or ludicrously perfect, such as Venus on a treadmill. "In my work, I like to throw off the ideal image. You're perfect exactly as you are."

Neal Robinson | Studio 302

The only man in the studio's first batch of artists, Robinson, 37, focuses on photography and humor. At Glass Wheel, the ODU photography instructor can be found Photoshopping images and crafting captions for his latest series, *@#%!*s and Giggles*. An example is his photo of a candy store named *IT'SUGAR*, with the caption "It's diabetes." "I think the world needs more humor," he says. "I believe there is a place for both high and low art. But I would like my work to land somewhere in between."

Evelyn Robertson | Studio 303

Robertson takes on the challenge inherent in landscape painting: how to convey the feeling of standing before a natural wonder. The 23-year-old Yale University graduate snagged a fellowship in 2014 to tour waterfalls in the Appalachian region. She returned with sketches and an idea. "What I want to do is replicate the emotional content of a natural scene," she says. Her solution is to do it abstractly, using poured-on layers of runny paint that resemble watery veils.

Caitlin Blomstrom explores how museum display fixtures become part of the art.

Caitlin Blomstrom | Studio 304

The 26-year-old Newport News artist studied painting and printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University and came to Glass Wheel to create a body of work that explores how wall brackets and glass cases safeguarding museum art actually become part of it. The research part is easy: She's a gallery host at the Chrysler Museum of Art.

Amanda Page Stephens | Studio 305

Stephens, 39, works in what she calls “process art.” She encourages children at festivals to squirt paint on her work, or friends at parties to spill wine on it. “It challenges my audience about who makes art, how it’s made and where it’s made.” The Portsmouth artist, who studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has been contemplating a piece using pill vials as a way to critique mental health treatment.

Charlotte Potter | Studio 306

Potter, 34, runs the Chrysler’s glass studio and is a nationally exhibited pioneer in performance and conceptual art using glass. Her works include a sculptural self-portrait made of microscope slides and the widely shown *Charlotte’s Web* – profile photos of her Facebook friends crafted as glass cameos. Her recent work uses lenticular lenses, which offer different views from opposing angles. Her subject: the polarization of America. “All of my work is about relationships, and the way we interact with other people.”

Sarah Vaughn | Studio 307

Vaughn, 30, began her studio residency by making wax models for sculptures to be cast in glass. She finished her master’s in glass sculpture in 2014 at Rochester Institute of Technology, and moved to Norfolk the following year to assist at the Chrysler glass studio. Her latest series consists of cast-glass stones precariously stacked, much like the trail-marking rock stacks she encountered while hiking in the U.S. and Scotland. Rocks, like bad memories, soften over time, she says. But if a trauma occurs and the rock breaks and the memory is stirred, the rough edges can cut as much as the initial experience.

Gayle Forman | Studio 308

Forman bubbles over with buoyant notions of how glass can be incorporated into conceptual and performance art. An example is the 23-year-old artist’s swing set on which she can sit, swing and blow glass, part of her “idea of a playground being analogous to a glass studio.” After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2014, she came to Norfolk to work in the Chrysler glass studio. At Glass Wheel, she’ll enjoy having close access to fellow artists. “I find that I work really well when I have people to bounce ideas off of. I usually talk about my ideas a million times before I get anything down.”

And what of Studio 202? It exists, and its artist is expected in March.



Filed Under: [Art](#), [Feature](#), [Home Feature](#)

Tagged With: [Ali Feeney](#), [Amanda Page Stephens](#), [Caitlin Blomstrom](#), [Charlotte Potter](#), [Chrysler Museum](#), [culture](#), [distinction magazine](#), [Distinctionhr](#), [Doug Perry](#), [Evelyn Robertson](#), [Fashion](#), [Food](#), [Gayle Forman](#), [Glass Wheel Studio](#),

hampton roads, Hampton Roads Luxury, Hannah Kirkpatrick, Heidi Peelen, Jenn Sleeper, lifestyle magazine, Liz Berk, Loveva, Made IN Virginia, Maggie Bush, N.E.O.N., Neal Robinson, Norfolk Art's District, Pat Perry, Sarah Vaughn, Stories of Hampton Roads, Todd Wright, Virginia, Virginia Made

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

POST COMMENT



Single?

Meet Hampton Roads
Top Matchmaker.

Enjoy a **FREE** consultation
by mentioning this ad.



MyTop *Matchmaker*

AMERICA'S TOP MATCHMAKERS

757-818-0192 | [CLICK HERE](#)

FOLLOW DISTINCTION



OTHER STORIES



Editors Letter

Hello, friends! This may sound odd to say in the age of the selfie, but getting comfortable in front of a camera is no easy thing. We've all made fun of

models, but spend any time on a fashion shoot ...

[Continue Reading](#)



Local Style

photography by KEITH LANPHER makeup
CARLY VEGA props ANTIQUE DESIGN CENTER
We turn to them for their eye, their taste, their
guidance. We trust them when we have to look our
best. But what ... [Continue Reading](#)



Maya Holihan

by MARGARET MATRAY photography by MARK
ATKINSON Opportunity often follows its own
schedule. Maya Holihan learned that her first year
in Norfolk, when she went from quitting a major

bridal salon to ... [Continue Reading](#)



Sandy Lerner

Cisco was hers. Urban Decay was hers. Her next revolution: local food, organically grown. by MIKE GRUSS photography by TODD WRIGHT A maze of Civil War-era stone fences barricade Ayrshire Farms, ... [Continue Reading](#)



Summer Fashion 2016

photography by TODD WRIGHT stylist
HARMAN KAUR PRADHAN Hair and makeup
MELISSA SCHWARTZ JONES and models TEREZA
KEEL and ALEXANDER CRUZ, all of MODELOGIC
Location PARADISE OCEAN CLUB, Fort ... [Continue](#)



The Blue Point

The Blue Point, an Outer Banks beacon by MOLLY HARRISON photography by KEITH LANPHER The northern Outer Banks on an off-season weeknight is dark; N.C. 12 stretches into blackness, not a ...

[Continue Reading](#)



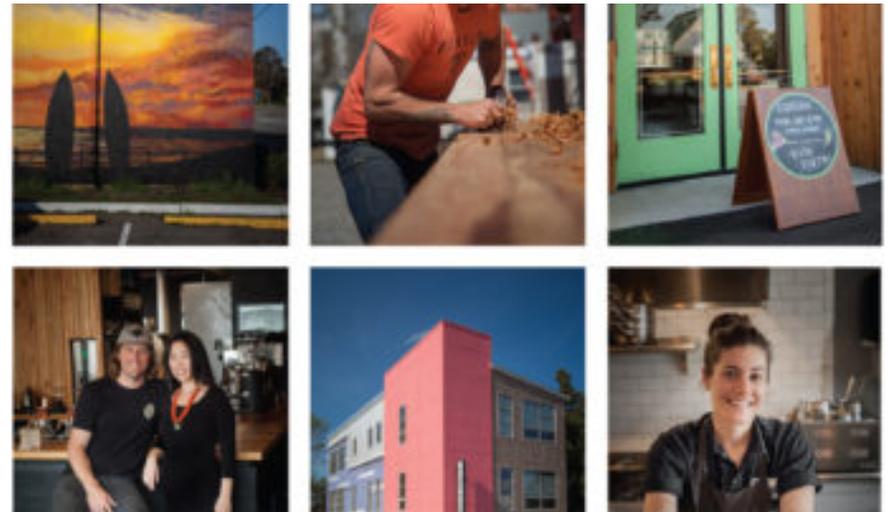
Raising the Bar

by MARGARET MATRAY photography by KEITH LANPHER With hints of maple and walnut, the Vermont Old Fashioned at Saint Germain is a twist on a classic. Barkeep Hunter Heri concocted the drink when a ... [Continue Reading](#)



Harman's Beauty Page

Distinction's Fashion and Beauty: Harman Kaur Pradhan Lip Service /// Shades of Summer Intense Long-Wear Lip Colour in La Diva by Chanel, \$36, NeimanMarcus.com Hyaluronic Sheer Rouge lipstick ... [Continue Reading](#)



The ViBe

by MIKE HIXENBAUGH photography by ERIC LUSHER Drive too fast along the notoriously dilapidated stretch of roads connecting Virginia Beach's sparkling convention center with its ... [Continue Reading](#)



Kim Warp

illustrations by KIM WARP photo by JESSICA SHEA
IN THEIR OWN WORDS: KIM WARP Kim Warp is a cartoonist whose work appears regularly in The New Yorker and Reader's Digest, among other ...

[Continue Reading](#)



MS Shoes

by JAMESETTA M. WALKER photo by ADAM EWING Dozens of men's shoes fill a table in Michael Brown's downtown Norfolk office. Dozens more line a wall. The styles range from subdued to spectacular: black ... [Continue Reading](#)



Jules Reid

by JAMESETTA M. WALKER photo by ADAM EWING Jules Reid can cheer up even a cold, gray day. Clad in a pink jacquard-print duster, a taupe blouse enlivened with old-gold shimmery cuffs, a miniskirt ... [Continue Reading](#)



Frank Morgan – In The Spirit

by JIM RAPER photograph by ERIC LUSHER Seeing Frank Morgan cradle one of his prized bottles of Louis Roederer 2003 Cristal RosÉ, you might think he's a longtime wine connoisseur. But he was in his ... [Continue Reading](#)



Tenkara Fly Fishing

by TIM EBERLY photography by NICK SWINGLE
Slipping around in another man's boots, my feet search for stable rocks as the frigid water whips around my legs. I'm standing in a mountain stream in ... [Continue Reading](#)



So You Want To Fly Fish

by BEAU BEASLEY To some, fly fishing is for college professors, folks in tweed jackets who know the Latin names of fish and who smoke pipes on the river. But actually this quiet sport appeals to ... [Continue Reading](#)



Bruce Hornsby

conversation condensed and edited by GREG LACOUR photograph by KEITH LANPHER Three-time Grammy winner Bruce Hornsby has built a career out of playing a wide range of American musical styles with ... [Continue Reading](#)



More Than A Survivor – Rosemary Tribble

by JANINE LATUS photography by RICH-JOSEPH FACUN They left in paper scrubs; that was what upset Rosemary Tribble, that in this moment of violation, when dignity had been ripped away, after stirrups ... [Continue Reading](#)



The Art Of Scrimshaw

by LEE TOLLIVER photography by TODD WRIGHT
Rick Bowles leans over the jeweler's loupe and pecks at a piece of ivory with small instruments, scratching and dotting the surface in moves so tiny they ... [Continue Reading](#)



The Richmond Fashion Scene

by JONATHAN EDWARDS photography by ADAM EWING
The dark blue pairs of Shockoe Atelier jeans fit perfectly on the shelves of Need Supply, next to denim from Theory, Rogue Territory and Rag & Bone ... [Continue Reading](#)



My Drunk Aunt Rita and Stephen Colbert

The Transportation Security Administration had announced that senior citizens could keep their shoes on through airport security, so Colbert – full of faux bombast – railed against the change, calling ... [Continue Reading](#)

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM



Distinction Magazine

Like Page 5.2K likes



Distinction Magazine

Yesterday at 4:36pm

Marc Leishman has joined fellow Australian Adam Scott by withdrawing from Olympic consideration, citing health concerns for his wife who continues to recover from a near-fatal illness.

Read our article on Marc and his family here:

<http://distinctionhr.com/2016/02/marc-leishman/>

<http://espn.go.com/.../marc-leishman-withdraws-rio-olympics-a...>



Load More...

Follow on Instagram

TWITTER

Tweets by @DistinctionHR

 **Distinction Magazine** @DistinctionHR 

Read our story on Marc Leishman here: distinctionhr.com/2016/02/marc-l...

  23 Jun

 **Distinction Magazine** @DistinctionHR 

Marc Leishman has joined fellow Australian Adam Scott by withdrawing from Olympic consideration, citing health... fb.me/3pU8RMvBb



Embed

View on Twitter

