

Merri Nelson
15612 Berlin Turnpike
Purcellville, VA 20132
540-882-3111
merrinelson@hotmail.com

Exhibit "Farms and Fields" at Sundance Gallery, Brunswick MD
Nov.2—30, 2007
Artist's reception Friday, Nov.2

Artist Statement

Exploring the landscape . . .

My art has always focused on nature—the landscape and its inhabitants— tree, plants, birds and animals, both wild and domestic. I've always been a realist, inspired to accurately capture the forms, gestures, color and textures that exist in our natural world.

The land here on both sides of the Potomac River is a rich and diverse environment, with rolling hills, open fields, ponds, forests and streambeds. An artist living here doesn't have to search for inspiration.

I love drawing—its immediacy, the touch of pencil to paper. I've drawn since childhood. Most of my current works are drawings done in graphite and colored pencil. I begin my drawings on site and from life to keep the energy and essence of a scene or subject, then complete the works in my studio. When you draw a subject you know it absolutely.

Not just a drawing . . .

Our souls are enriched by a connection to nature.

With my art I invite viewers into the landscape— to appreciate the stillness and open space of farm, field and forest, to look more closely and notice the details—moss on a fallen log, pastel mushrooms, the colors and textures of grass and leaves, the twist of an old apple tree trunk, a heron hunting. I would like my art to inspire people to value and protect our natural world.

About the artist . . .

Merri lives and works in the Loudoun County, Virginia countryside. A professional artist, art instructor, and illustrator for over 30 years, she has done natural science illustration for local and national groups, written and illustrated interpretive exhibits for the National Park Service (including Grand Teton National Park), and taught art classes for the Smithsonian Associates, US Botanic Garden, VA State Arboretum, NY State Museum and others; Merri specializes in teaching adult beginners to draw. She has been awarded two artist residencies: A.I.R.at San Juan National Forest (CO) and A.I.R.at Huyck Preserve (NY). Her artwork is exhibited locally and nationally.