

## The 8

### @Tannery Row.

#### Submitted by Katrina Yurko

The arts bring a certain mark of distinction to a city. In this case, The 8 artists from Kudzu Art Zone are the carriers of distinction. From old town Norcross to Tannery Row in Buford, the 8 artists have composed a very special exhibit of some 30 paintings that are far more than a visual treat. The 8 Women artists each bring a unique history and stylistic development to a collective exhibit that is both rich in its total effect as well as spotlighting each singular piece as if it were standing alone.

Kathy Kitz work; Eastwind, has a contemporary blend of active brushwork and an interplay between positive and negative fields that create striking contrasts. Kitz work is spontaneous and keeps the viewer actively engaged in her process of pulling and pushing space.

Kathy Collins paintings are about being present in a specific place and time within her landscapes. The neutral color and atmosphere invite the viewer to experience the story in her spaces. Collins uses calligraphic brushstrokes which float in the air space between the viewer and the scene, thus giving the onlooker an immediate sense that they are actually standing in the grass.

Wanda Walston's, One, intensely decorative and interwoven design hold minute treasures to seek and find. The hands piece integrates a cross section of humanity all present on one equal spatial plane, all treated equally with complexity of design, color and creative patterns, but each design in hand is unique.

Diana Dice; Dancing with the Stars, marks a milestone in her career. Dice's style has developed from playful representation to complete abstraction. Her style has morphed into fluid plains of color that interweave in kinetic and directional pathways. Viewers are invited on a journey to travel through portals and places of "otherworldly" scapes.

Lynda Ellis's style easily bridges between a variety of subject matter. The spotlight show piece at the Tannery, Morning in Nueva Laredo, is not only a masterful control of early morning light cast on supple textiles, but an in depth empathy for the native man that wears them. Ellis's approach to technique is academically proficient but when coupled with her style, becomes a painting not to be missed.

Kathy Crock, The lead member of the 8, has a wealth of experience and artistic sensibility that comes from years of developing personal style as well as taking risks with new approaches to painting. Crock's work has an air of finesse that is indicative of an artist that is intent on capturing the reality of her subjects. Her paintings easily communicate key aspects of life, love and friendship that connect us all.

Anne Labaire brings a long history of artistry to each canvas she paints. Her works have evolved from narrative to landscape to conceptual. Each subject is treated with a style that evokes a human condition and sensitivity to stress and calm. In Labaire's conceptual works, she uses color not only to describe the mood but also to incorporate large scale geometric planes of solid paint and deep crevasses or fissures in the slabs of what might be perceived as rock. Her style is "rock solid".

Betty Loud work is as much a narrative about the places she paints as they are about the landscape themselves. The pastel techniques embedded in the textures of foliage, water, stone, and wood give

each surface a unique way to catch light. The color and time of day is captured in each atmospheric pastel stroke making the wind and air as palpable as the wood and stone.

The 8 have come together over the years to create a presence in the town of Old Norcross. The 8 have maintained a mark of distinction through developing the studios at Kudzu, Establishing a Venue for a myriad of artists to exhibit at the gallery, and most of all , the 8 have created a living, working arts collaboration for the people of their community. Now, the Buford community has a chance to see what the 8 are all about.