

portrait of the *Artist* Lynn Herring

Simple works involve COMPLEXITY

By Barbara Gallo Farrell
The Poughkeepsie Journal

Editor's note: Portrait of the Artist is a regular feature in Enjoy! that spotlights artists with exhibits in the Hudson Valley. If you are an artist in a current or upcoming exhibit and would like to be included in this feature, email bfarrell@poughkeepsiejournal.com. This week's Portrait of the Artist features Lynn Herring, whose work is on display at the Storefront Gallery in Kingston through Aug. 31.

Tell us about your art that will be on view in the Kingston exhibition.

This work is a mixture of silkscreen prints, etchings and drawings based on nonsensical symbols. I work with letters and shapes that have multiple readings, such as x's and o's, as well as scribbles that look like hieroglyphics yet have no intellectual meaning.

What inspired you to create your latest pieces?

Living as a fifty-something woman in the chaos of today's culture/news/politics and intimate relationships give me a whole lot of material to work with!

What is your artistic medium of choice?

I let my ideas drive the medium rather than the other way around. The most recent work I am doing is video performance as sculptural installations. I use photography, wood boxes, videos and monitors, and work on paper to express the ideas.

What do you think the most important thing is for an artist to learn?

For me, the most important thing for a young artist would be to learn to be honest and courageous in your work. Dig deep and



Kingston artist Lynn Herring stands by some of her video installations. COURTESY PHOTO

don't get stuck on trying to make an object or pretty painting. Find out how you are unique and what you have to offer to the culture, then take courageous risks to express it.

What do you hope viewers come away with after seeing your work?

I'd like the viewer to see the humor and complexity of coming up with something simple and engaging.

Do you see yourself in your artwork?

I am in my art — literally. Seriously, my prints show my humor, spirituality and simplicity.

How have you handled the business side of being an artist?

I work as an advertising art director so I have used my marketing skills to do a lot of promotion of my work. I have produced a few shows here in the Hudson Valley and I continue to try to meet and get engaged with other artists in Ulster County.

Describe yourself in one word. Why that

word?

Persistent. I have been making art my whole adult life through good times and tough times. It is my calling. I finished my BFA at 50. I'd call that persistent!

What is your personal definition of art?

Taking life's experiences and making it into something that transcends the actual event(s) and allows people to see life/culture/relationship from another point of view.

How does your background contribute to your process as an artist?

Art was not something that was valued, yet my mom brought a lot of crafts for us to play with into our home. I knew from a very young age that I loved color, drawing and making things. The blue-collar world didn't really have much appreciation for art or culture, so I went to school to do something practical with my art — design/art direction.

IF YOU GO

What: "Works on Paper," an exhibition of prints and drawings by Lynn Herring

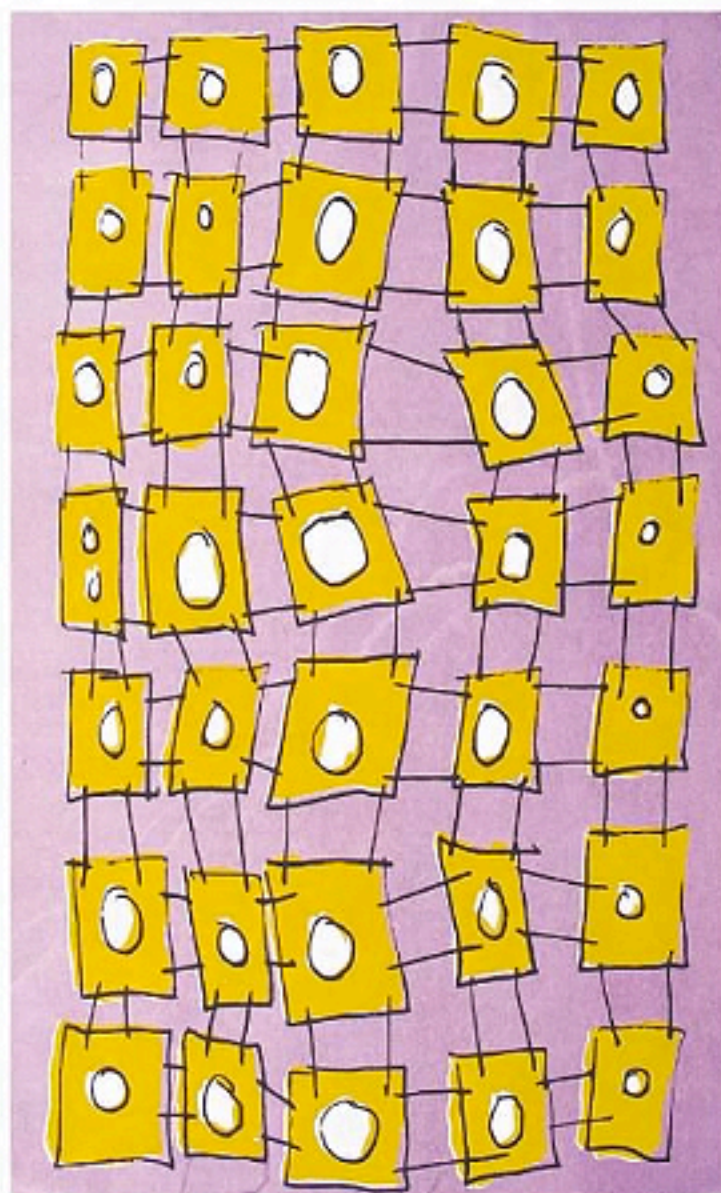
When: 5-8 p.m., Aug. 3, opening reception; exhibit runs through Aug. 31; regular gallery hours, 1-6 p.m., Saturday and by appointment

Where: The Storefront Gallery, 93 Broadway, Kingston

Information: Call 845-338-8473; visit www.TheStorefrontGallery.com

Born in Chicago, Lynn Herring has been living and working in the New York metropolitan area for the past 20-plus years. She moved to Woodstock three years ago and has a studio in Kingston. Herring has been exhibiting her work since 2005.

Journal intern Maria DiSalvo contributed to this feature.



"Holding It Together," work on paper by Kingston artist Lynn Herring. COURTESY PHOTO



"Man's Inner Reflections," sculpture by Kingston artist Lynn Herring. COURTESY PHOTO