

Artist-at-Large

by Louis St. Lewis

ART FOR UNDER THE TREE

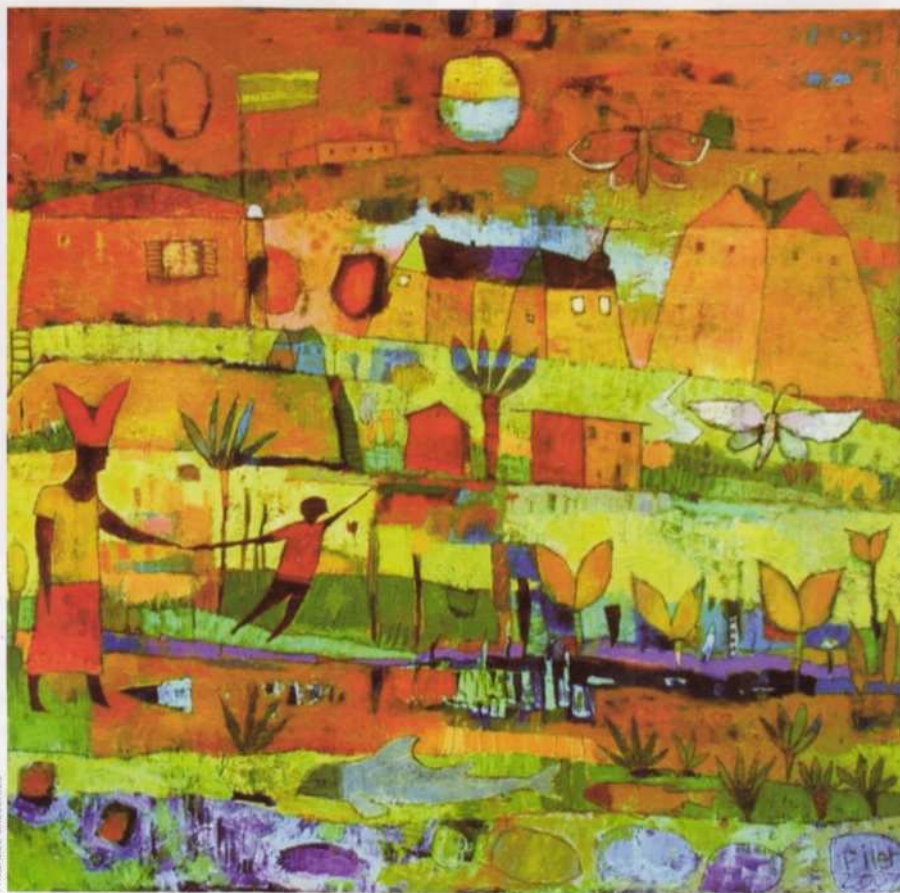
Well folks, here it is November, and the galleries are filled to the brim with great artwork, and they and the artists they represent would just love for you to take some home with you. As much fun as it is being an artist or owning a gallery, I assure you that they are allowed to keep doing what they do only through the generous support of art collectors. The next time you go to any of our fine sales galleries in the area, take into consideration that they are trying to turn a profit, as well as provide you with a great cultural experience. Luckily for all of us, there is a glut of talent on the market, and you can find something for just about anyone if you take the time to look around and check out the local galleries.

Even though I have been a Triangle resident since the early '80s, there are still plenty of discoveries to make. Every single time I have ever been to Cary I have gotten lost, but this time luck was with me, and I stumbled across the Russian Art Gallery at 200 S. Academy St. (www.russianartcary.com). I spent some time traveling in Russia a few years ago, and let me tell you, as soon as I stepped into the gallery, I felt like having a glass of vodka ... it was that authentic. The Russian owners have done an excellent job displaying the work of their mother country, and I'm certain that you will be charmed by the offerings. What I like about Russian art is that a lot of it has a time trip quality. During the Cold War as modern art raced forward, Russian artists continued with the subtle realism that is very well represented in this gallery. No shock of the new here, just good-looking, well-crafted paintings that are all amazingly well-priced for the quality. Check out the show opening in November and running through Dec. 2 featuring the Classical Realism of venerated Russian artist Anatoly Kostovsky.

I have known artist Jane Filer for a few decades now, and her confidence and style

just gets stronger with each show. I was fortunate enough to be present at her recent opening at Tyndall Galleries in Chapel Hill (www.tyndallgalleries.com), and it was a full house of revelers that Saturday night. Dancers in Jane's exotic masks made especially for the event mingled and boogied to the live band. There were so many people

just as much as her amazing talent to produce the fantastic and whimsical artwork that she is known for, is her kindness to others. Jane has long been a well-beloved teacher of art to many aspirants, and she was recently honored by having her classroom at Carrboro's ArtsCenter officially named "The Jane Filer Studio."



Jane Filer, *Rising of the Harvest Moon*

you almost had to stand on a chair to see the artwork, but once you did, you noticed that many of the works were flanked by big red SOLD dots. Jane is a real worker. She gets up, goes to work and produces an enchanting body of work over and over again. But what really sets Ms. Filer apart,

Just around the corner at Somerhill Gallery (www.somerhill.com), I ran across the sophisticated color field paintings of Margaret White. I love her paintings — they are like looking off of a bridge into the mist, filled with subtle colors and delicate shifts of tone. Built up slowly from layer