

Featured Artist—Jane Filer

My paintings are evolved from historical and prehistoric observations. They are my response to clues I have gathered from the most ancient to the most modern visual references available. Blending this with the relationship I have with my own existence, I create a fantastical story. The sense of story is used to provoke exciting aspects of being and existing in this amazing world.

Jane Filer spent her early years in San Jose, California. At the age of five, Filer began to paint with intense dedication. When she was 11, the family migrated to Western Australia, where Filer first became acquainted with the ethereal artwork of the aboriginal people. The mystical nature of this culture made a lasting impression.

After high school and in response to the encouragement of her aunt and godmother, Filer began her formal art education in Chicago and subsequently received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with honors from Southern Illinois University (SIU). As a senior, she received the Rickert-Ziebold Trust Award, the most prestigious award offered to graduating seniors by SIU's School of Art & Design.

Filer married and moved to North Carolina, where she earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Presently, Filer lives in a house that she and her husband built in the woods near Chapel Hill. Her love of the landscape, animals, and plant life that surround her are evident in her work.

In 2006, after teaching painting and drawing for 21 years at The ArtsCenter (TAC) in Carrboro, North Carolina, Filer retired to devote all of her time to painting. TAC subsequently named the painting studio in which she spent so much time spreading her contagious love for the visual arts in her honor. In 2010 Filer painted a 45 foot long mural for RDU International Airport. The painting, which hangs in the baggage claim area, is called

“Friendly Folks” and was commissioned by The Triangle Area Sister Cities of Durham, Raleigh, Cary, and Southern Pines to promote its mission of “world peace: one friendship and one community at a time.”

Filer’s work has been shown internationally at the American embassies in Estonia and Uganda, and appears in numerous prestigious corporate, commercial, and private collections including the collections of IBM, Duke Hospital, and UNC Memorial



Hospital. Filer enjoys a hearty following of art collectors and friends who attend her solo exhibitions. Many of her shows include “Happenings,” a modern primal-drum dance of characters from her painting—friends and patrons wearing masks made by Filer—coming to life and roaming the gallery.

Filer’s paintings continue to be inspired by a deep contemplation of life and her relationship to nature. ■

Each quarter the works of a different contemporary North Carolina artist are displayed in the storefront windows of the State Bar building. The State Bar is grateful to The Mahler Fine Art, the artists’ representative, for arranging this loan program. The Mahler is a full-service fine art gallery in Raleigh representing national, regional, and North Carolina artists, and provides residential and commercial consulting. Readers who want to know more about an artist may contact owners Rory Parnell and Megg Rader at (919) 896-7503 or info@themahlerfineart.com.

