

Splash of Color: Norma Montaigne

As Norma Montaigne enjoys working with different textures and mediums, she believes every idea can be executed in a number of ways. Color can be bold or soft; paint can be thick or washed out; surfaces can be wood, canvas, paper or of a three dimensional character. Each texture or medium is a calculated choice used to convey the concept, knowing that no one medium can solve every idea. She says searching for different mediums leads her to interesting places: "Experimenting challenges my every day and thought." Montaigne presents a collection of her vibrant and varied work in 'Splash of Color' at the Compass Music and Arts Center in Brandon, from May 5 through July 2 with a reception Sunday, May 7 from 2:00-4:00pm.

For three years, Montaigne studied painting, life drawing, and sculpting at the University of Hartford Art School in Connecticut. Her studies continued at Paier School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut where she was first introduced to commercial art. Upon graduating, she immediately started her graphic design career with a full time position as an art director at a New Haven based advertising agency.

Commercial art offered her a new world for freedom in expression, transferring design from canvas to packaging, billboards, car wraps, coloring books, and children's story books. The concept to design something in order to make a space pleasant and appealing was a welcome challenge to her.

From the merging of her fine arts study, commercial art study, and the practical application of art as a creative art director evolved Montaigne's approach to creating art. Filling an empty space requires a concept and a concept is free of barriers. Montaigne knows the choosing of a medium leads to the end realization so creating beauty from the mundane can be as simple or complicated as the artist chooses. Ultimately, she says "I like to believe my art somehow makes people 'see' a subject just a little differently than they did the day before."

The Compass Music and Arts Center is located in Park Village at 333 Jones Drive, Brandon VT, 05733 (Park Village used to be the Brandon Training School, located 1.5 miles north of downtown Brandon off Arnold District Rd.). www.cmacvt.org





