

ROBYN RYAN

A fleeting glimpse into the world of a modern day renaissance woman

LEONARD BANKS

Only by scratching the surface of the canvas that embodies her visions will you understand the depth of her love for fine art. Welcome to the world of Robyn Ryan, NSWC Human Systems Integration Program Director, and area-acclaimed sculptor and painter. By day, she is a government employee, but after work, she pushes aside her briefcase for a smock, paintbrushes, acrylic paint and oil-based clay. Ryan is a multi-talented renaissance artist, who has taken full advantage of the opportunity to focus on her lifelong dream of creating art.

Whether it's sculpting horses or painting birds, the depth of Ryan's creativity has no boundaries. While most people explore outlets outside of their community for enjoyment, Ryan is comfortable spending time with her husband and creating works of art in her Fauquier County studio. "I paint on weekends, holidays, and yes, I paint on furlough days," Ryan said.

The blueprint of her imagination is her passion to paint what she loves, which has inspired her current series of art renderings aptly named, "Fleeting Glimpses."

"From childhood, I've always been creative, and I loved to create thing simply by using my imagination," Ryan said. "When I was eight years old, my mother took me to one of her art classes that was taught by a professional artist that lived in our neighborhood. I was given a pencil and paper, and before I knew it, I was youngest member of the art class."

Prior to attending college, Ryan had a tough decision to make regarding what career path would provide her the happiness and financial security that she longed for. "Quite honestly, I wanted to teach horseback riding, until I found out the hard way how hard it was to make a living in that line of work," Ryan said. Soon after, she attended Radford University, and graduated with a business degree. While attending Radford, she fulfilled a personal interest, by teaching horseback riding at Virginia Tech.

After getting married, she decided to revisit her love for painting, which led to taking art workshops instructed by teachers that she respected. One of her annual pilgrimage journeys included a 10-day workshop with the Orkney Springs Art Workshop, sponsored by the James Madison University Art Department. The workshop motivated her to attend

numerous other workshops of similar stature. For the serious artist, hoping to cut artistic teeth in water media and sculpture, instruction by Ryan is available for individual and small group instruction.

The path to sculpting began with a class at the Art League School, inside the Torpedo Factory, in Alexandria. Her instructor used insulation found in the NASA space shuttle to melt down bronze that was used for classroom activities. Inspired by the process used to create bronze sculptures, Ryan was determined to learn every aspect of bronze sculpting. "I learned from cradle to grave how the process works by doing everything myself," Ryan said. Nowadays, she allows Wegner Metal Arts to provide the finishing casting touches on her work. "Now I appreciate that I am paying the foundry to do it for me, because it's a lot of work, and there is a lot of opportunity for things to go wrong," Ryan said.

Ryan's work can be found at Art First Gallery, on 824 Caroline Street, Suite 1 or North Windsor Artists Libertytown Arts Workshop on 916 Liberty Street in Fredericksburg. She is also featured in the book Drawn Together, artists of Fredericksburg Volume II. For information about Ryan and her latest paintings, and sculptures, go to www.robynryanart.com.

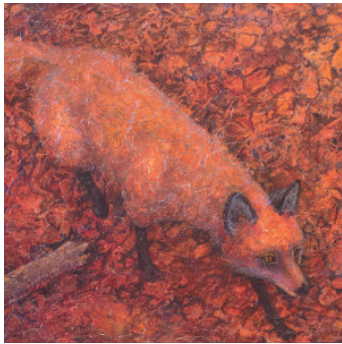


Photo courtesy of Robyn Ryan

Robyn Ryan, NSWC Human Systems Integration Project Manager, is also a painter and sculptor. Here she works on a sculpture of a horse, another interest of hers. She taught horseback riding at Virginia Tech.



Above: From her "Fleeting Glimpses" series - "Redwing Blackbird," "Lady Slipper" and "Passing Through."



Below: "Cat - Cheshire" and "Rolling Bliss."



Bosworth: First time out

From page 1

Michaels, Md. took the top honors on Aug. 2.

According to his mom, Hope Bosworth, this is the first competition her son ever entered, noting that he is a bit shy.

"We only stumbled across the information about the contest the last week it was advertised," she said. "But Eric agreed to enter, and he made it through the auditions held at Hard Times Café."

Hope Bosworth commented to a friend that accompanied them to Hard Times Café that, "The atmosphere in the room changes when Eric starts singing."

The crowd at the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair took notice and Thunder 104.5 DJ and competition emcee Braden Smith commented on Bosworth's deep baritone voice.

The 16-year-old rising junior at King George High School has been singing since he was nine.

He performed Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon" at the school's variety show this year.

Bosworth also performs Gospel music and is a member of the Christian Music "Mars Hill Band" in King George.

"They perform at youth events in the area," said Hope Bosworth.

Bosworth sang to recorded music this year, and according to his mom, Eric said he knew the words to his second selection, but was thrown off his game a bit when his music was cued up sooner than he expected.

He is currently taking voice lessons and he also plays guitar.

Hope Bosworth said she and Eric discussed entering the competition again next year and agreed they would take more time to prepare his act.

You can find recordings of Bosworth singing such tunes as Alan Jackson's "Remember When" or Gospel tunes such as "Wade in the Water" on YouTube.

Winners from more than 450 local competitions around the country go on to compete at state and then to vie for one of five regional titles. The regional winners compete in the national final at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn. The grand prizewinner is awarded \$100,000.

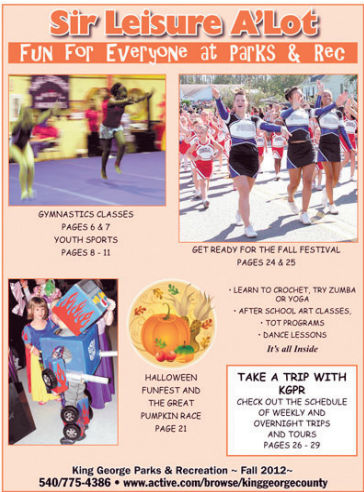
Details on the Texaco Country Showdown competition sponsored by Falmouth country station WGRX Thunder 104.5 can be found at the www.Thunder1045.com.

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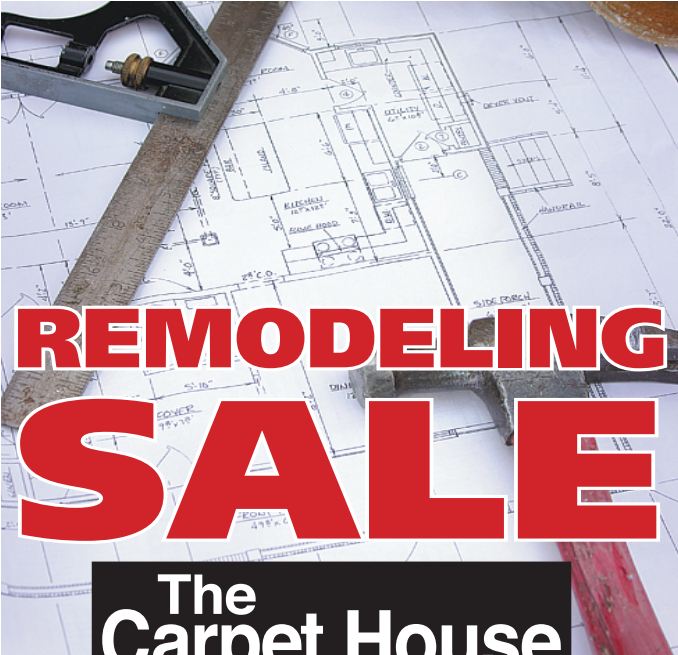


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