



Refreshing Travel Through "Migration: A Gallery"

by Brittany Jackson

Enter *Migration: A Gallery*, and step out of the bustle of downtown. Take in the pieces, large or small, boisterous or unobtrusive. Only moments into the journey, feel the simultaneous stimulation and refreshment that an artistically and emotionally rich gallery provides.

This is the atmosphere that Rob and Laura Jones have created at their new gallery on the corner of Fifth and Water Street. With eleven years of marriage and a mutual love for art to their credit, they are (as would be expected) radiant about their venture. Rob and Laura each bring unique effects to the gallery, and with a name like "migration" it can only be expected that their own personal journeys play a part in the art they choose. For example, their mutual love for swimming inspired the selection of numerous images of water throughout the gallery.

Laura, a retired lawyer and graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill, tends to the gallery each day. She is animated and passionate, but easy-going enough to comically share the story of her three-year experience as a studio artist and her consequent decision that while she had a great eye for art, she was not an artist herself. She became more serious as she discussed her current pursuits with the gallery and said, "Art is a way of communicating- and that's what I care about."

Rob, an art history major from the University of Texas who completed his graduate studies at Harvard- about which he is extremely modest- shares Laura's passion but with a suit-and-tie approach. Rob has worked with museums in Atlanta and Boston and his finely honed, but refreshingly not 'by-the-book' taste for art is apparent



Alan Dehmer, *Under the Boardwalk*, gum bichromate photography

throughout the gallery. Rob explained that he chose art as a life path early on and said very concisely, "I like to be involved in *what* people see and *how* they see it."

So these two very interesting people devoted themselves to opening *Migration: A Gallery*. They gathered what they called an "A-List" of artists and started calling them. They were shocked when all twenty artists on their "A-List" said yes. They continued to have similar good fortune with most of the preparation for the gallery. Laura said, "I have never worked so hard, but it doesn't feel like work. So many things have come naturally and people have helped us!"

The gallery's mission is "to discover, promote and place art which transforms the viewer through the work's exploration of our changing and evolving relationships with nature, each other and our own souls." They do this through the work of twenty artists from Virginia and across the country. The works encompass a variety of genres (figurative, abstract, landscape) and a plethora of mediums (prints, oil, acrylic, pastel, pencil, glass, photographs, ceramic, jewelry, metal and more). One can choose to examine the photography of Alan Dehmer, the sculptures of Tim Taunton, or the

visually demanding metal works of Edwin White. Look deep into Peter Filene's thought-provoking double-exposures or lose yourself in the heavy mist of Arturo Mallman's acrylic works.

These original twenty artists will be the primary contributors for the gallery, but guest artists are planned for the near future. The opening show is entitled *Journey Home*, and the gallery will continue to work around the primary theme of *Migration*.

Make the journey to the corner of 5th and Water Street SE and *Migration: A Gallery* promises to "take your soul on a journey away from the hectic pace of modern life...and leave you with a pleasant memory."



Tim Taunton, *Une Fleur Andeloue*, earthenware

Migration: A Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00a to 6:00p. and First Fridays 11:00a to 8:00p. Visit their website at www.migrationgallery.com or call 434-293-2200 for more information about contributing artists or space rentals.