



Contact: Nancy Smeltzer
info@fiberfantasies.com
www.fiberfantasies.com
1-828-513-1024

For immediate release

ADDING HEIGHT TO THE CANVAS; TEXTURE AND EMBELLISHMENTS WITH BUTTONS AND BEADS

Hendersonville, NC – Having been a professional art quilter since 1981, Nancy Smeltzer is best known for her elaborately embellished art quilts that are covered with buttons and beads. www.fiberfantasies.com However, 2016 ushered in a year of experimenting with work on framed canvases which have been rather successful, Smeltzer feels.

“I love the sense of “immediate” gratification”, she adds. “One square inch (2.5 cm square) of the small beads still takes an hour’s time, but I’m finished with a canvas piece in 3-4 weeks, not 6-8 months like my art quilts take. The shorter time spent also makes the canvas work more affordable than the larger all fabric art quilts”, she notes.

Buttons and beads are what people seem to respond to in Smeltzer’s work. “Shiny, I love shiny!” she smiles, as she adds that probably she might have been a crow in another life time. Looking at her studio, the various boxes and other containers spill out with lots of treasures. There are not just the shelves color sorted as to their contents... “this is the red button and bead shelf, etc.” that make the studio interesting upon close inspection. There are some unusual finds such as bone incense containers from North Africa and metal leaves that were purchased not knowing at the time how they would be used. Both have ended up in several works, adding their textures and lifting the compositions up and off the surfaces on which they were used.

Touch. That’s what people want to do with Smeltzer’s work. Everybody had a “binky” or some sort of textile when they were little and the comfort of touch is a part of most people’s lives. Who wants to pet most paintings, yet everybody wants to touch one of Smeltzer’s pieces, although grown-ups usually ask first before reaching out. “Why do you think I like making these pieces so much?”, Smeltzer adds, “I get to touch them, too.

Four of Smeltzer’s most recent pieces can be seen in a group exhibit, “All Creatures Great and Small” from July 7 – Sept. 4, 2016 at the Galleries at Flat Rock, 2702A Greenville Highway, Flatrock, NC 28791; 828-698-7000; www.Galleryflatrock.com Check the web site or call for hours.

.jpgs courtesy of artist; others available upon request