

METRO PARKS' CENTENNIAL ART CENTER GALLERY PRESENTS:

Kathy Carter – Pottery and Sculpture
R. Lafayette Mitchell – Paintings
Eva Sochorova – Paintings

November 7 – 28

Opening Reception, Friday, November 7, 5 PM – 7 PM



Potter and sculptor Kathy Carter, Neo-Futurist painter R. Lafayette Mitchell and abstract painter Eva Sochorova share a November 7 – 28 exhibit at Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center.



THEIC Sculptural stoneware teapot by Kathy Carter

Clay artist Kathy Carter's inspired relationship with clay is best described in her own words. "Working with clay is simultaneously the most rewarding and frustrating of experiences, but allows for expansive growth, inclusive of everything from basic craftsmanship to spiritual growth. Clay is a tough taskmaster, and yet I am driven to work with it and I receive immense satisfaction when everything comes together in a coherent work. Normally this satisfaction lasts about three days and then the questions start. I wonder what would happen if I would just ... The explorations are endless. Clay offers a universe of ways to express ideas, and because of this inherent quality, it also mirrors and confronts me, teasing and challenging to make it just a little bigger, develop a different statement, a new glaze color, different surface

marks, etc. ..." Of her works for this exhibit, she says, "I have focused on figurative work. These pieces document my current understandings using patterned, colored porcelain and sculpted figurative images to suggest emotional states..."

Kathy Carter received her degree in Art Education from the *University of Kansas*. Currently teaching with *Metro Parks and Recreation* at Centennial Art Center, she also has taught at *The Renaissance Center* in Dickson, TN, *Watkins College of Art and Design* in Nashville and at *St. Mary's of Redford High School* in Detroit, MI. She often shares her clay expertise via demonstrations in various settings including the *Nashville International Airport Arts in the Airport* program. The Hendersonville Arts Council sponsored her in a project wherein students created a 9' x 28' ceramic wall mural. In her studio, *Burning Bush Studios*, she creates works that are displayed in galleries in Nashville and in Norcross, GA. Carter's works have been accepted into numerous art exhibits and fine-craft festivals throughout the eastern United States. Her professional organization affiliations include the *American Crafts Council* and the *Tennessee Association of Craft Artists*.



HOLD TOGETHER Raku pottery by Kathy Carter



THE JUGGLER'S REVIEW
Oil painting by R. Lafayette Mitchell

When painter R. Lafayette Mitchell discusses his art, he becomes energized. "In the tradition of a realist painter," he enthuses, "I have brought together basic composition with the emotions associated with a specific subject matter ... the result is a positive story line. My primary concern is to be a painter of a style called *Futurism*. I've incorporated my own technique into the style, whereas I am often referred to as a *Neo-Futurist*. *Futurism* is the glorifying of contemporary life, mainly by emphasizing its two dominant themes – the machine and the motion. The repeating shape of an object demonstrates the invisible energy of an object... In my art, you will travel aboard a beam of light to discover time at all three levels – the past, the present and the future." Mitchell continues, "My art is inspired by all types of music. I listen ... and then I translate the musical sounds into painted shapes on my canvas, giving them the same character and spice as their invisible musical sounds. Aggressive, massive shapes in the painting will give the impression of loud sounds or solid courage. While the quick, thinner shapes offer higher note sounds that may be created by a violin or chimes..., shapes that curve repeatedly in the same direction symbolize the spiral orbit of great-sounding symphonies..." Of his technique, he shares, "Painting in oils is my favorite medium... I love the personality of the medium. It allows ample drying time, is great for texture, and is all-around easy to work with... Once I form a vision in my head of the direction I must take ... I use pure color to achieve the effect of mixed colors by the juxtaposition of contrasting colors, instead of by mixing the desired shade on the palette..."

R. Lafayette Mitchell attended *Tennessee State University* and *Middle Tennessee State University*, where he earned a BFA degree. He has long been a well-known local art-education

innovator – creating and presenting art demonstrations and "hands-on" visual arts experiences for children throughout Nashville. He now works full-time for *Metro Parks' Cultural Arts Department*, teaching adults and children in various *Community Centers*. "Teaching the art of being creative is my personal agenda..." he says. Mitchell's recent activities include conducting children's painting classes on Saturdays at *Jerry's Artarama* (an art supply store in Antioch). Having had numerous exhibitions of his own works, R. Lafayette Mitchell creates opportunities for other artists to display works in high-profile venues, is active in area arts organizations and has served as a juror for numerous exhibitions in the Nashville area.



THE STRUGGLE OF THE ONE
Oil painting by R. Lafayette Mitchell



ABSTRACT #5 Acrylic painting by Eva Sochorova

Of her abstract acrylic paintings on canvas and paper, Eva Sochorova offers, "I paint because I like and need the process of painting – the throwing

yourself into it, the losing it all – which takes a lot of courage – the finding it again – sometimes. It is the ‘isness’ of painting that excites me. Everything else is up to the viewer.” In her Artist’s Statement, she writes, “When I am painting, I am after something. It could be in the dark and complex. Or it could be as simple as a color in my mother’s dress. I don’t know what it is. And I hope I never find it.” A review in the October 2008 issue of *New York’s Gallery and Studio Magazine* described her recent work as “...beautifully melded colors and geometric forms in the manner of the *Russian Constructivists*, albeit with softer, more lyrical paint handling.”

Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Eva Sochorova spent her childhood in East Germany. After graduating from *Friedrich Engels Oberschule* in Neubrandenburg (mathematics) she continued her studies at the *University of Heidelberg*, after which she assisted in research with the *Physics Department at Rutgers University*. Using humor to explain her voyage from physics into painting, Sochorova says that she “...got into art originally only because it pays so well.” She spent a number of years working with clay in Washington State “...throwing pots,” she continues with further humor, “but since moving to Nashville, my husband’s behavior has improved and I no longer find that necessary.” Her art studies began at the *San Francisco Art Institute* with Wally Hedrick, in Nashville with Renee LaRose, and at the *Art Students’ League* in New York City with Knox Martin and Larry Poons. “But,” Sochorova shares, “I have learned the most about art from the children that I have taught, both at *Watkins Art Institute* and in the *Metro Nashville Public Schools*.”



ABSTRACT # 4 Acrylic painting by Eva Sochorova

The Art Center’s Director, Brenda McSurley says, “We’re looking forward to the November showing of three very talented artists’ works; two of which are currently teaching art classes for Metro Parks. They work in different mediums, but the art they create comes together for a very strong display of color, design, and movement. Please join us for what promises to be an exciting opening night when you can meet each artist and discuss their work. While you are here, don’t miss the beautiful courtyard and herb garden, where Tom Rice’s limestone sculptures are on display.” The Art Center’s gallery manager, Lena Lucas, says, “These three artists’ works combine to present an intriguing and thought provoking exhibit. Their works – more than being demonstrations of their obvious deft, expressive skill with their mediums – compel the viewer to interact and discover deeper meanings. Like good poetry, operating on several levels...”

Kathy Carter, R. Lafayette Mitchell and Eva Sochorova will be present during the opening reception at Centennial Art Center on Friday, November 7, from 5 PM – 7 PM. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Centennial Art Center is located in the 25th Avenue North and Park Plaza corner of Nashville’s Centennial Park. <http://www.nashville.gov/parks/cac.htm>. Weekly hours: M – F, 9 AM – 5 PM. For more information and directions, call (615) 862-8442.



Herb Garden in Centennial Art Center’s inner courtyard
<http://www.herbsocietynashville.org/>