

Exhibition proposal for “Sanctuaries” by Val Lyle, 2009-2010

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Below please find below images from the previous smaller exhibitions of “Sanctuaries”. This is an “immersion” style walk-through installation exhibition that combines distinct aromas, projections, sound and movement along with textures and colors. Catalogue partially funded by a grant from The Tennessee Arts Commission available by request, or from Amazon.com “These Truths; the brutal tenderness of Appalachia”

The heart of the concept is a contemporary interpretation of the endangered Appalachian Barn, and the host of emotions and metaphors that swirl around it.

“Sanctuaries III”

August 13th to September 26th, 2009 Abingdon VA “Arts Depot”



For many, the combined aromas evident of sweet hay, drying tobacco and baling twine is enough to send them on a journey. Guests are invited to crawl through the hay bale tunnel and take a ride on the swing. When there was no supervision available, a baling twine child-sized doll was placed in the swing.



Visitors enjoy the digital projections by the artist while an “old time” band plays in the adjacent room to spontaneous dancers.

Reviews

<http://www.artsmagazine.info/articles.php?view=detail&id=200906161958004838>

What I was not expecting was the tremendous feedback, verbal written and physical, from the audience!

Older Adults were eager to take a ride on the swing and climb through the hay bale tunnel unprompted. Folks felt strongly about sharing their personal “Barn Stories” with me. While some were willing to write down a short version, many wanted personal eye contact and a human touch. Gallery personnel assured me that when I was not present, visitors still had to share their stories with whomever was there, be it another visitor or a docent volunteer. A new record was set for attendance to the spot-light gallery for a solo show.

Bailing Twine Fiber Installation, part of “Sanctuaries.”



“Memory Blanket” is made of 1500 strands of square feed hay bailing twine collected from the barn where Lyle’s grandfather used them. 18’ x 4’ x 3’, 2009.

30 second “installation” on U-Tube

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLiLH_4FIPE

Artist Statement

“Sanctuaries” by Val Lyle, 2009

Art in its most successful execution evokes a deep cerebral reaction.

This installation art, or perhaps the new term Immersion Art is better suited to describe this work, uses light, scale, textures, colors and in particular-smells-to tap into the viewers’ deeper senses. A sound track and projections transport the viewer.

A new visitor closes her eyes, pauses in her steps, and breathes deeply in-the aroma of good red clover hay, tobacco drying, and the distinct scent of bailing twine. A slow smile crosses her face before she opens her eyes, “Like Dorothy, I’m finally home!” she exclaims!

This piece is about memory.

A similar reaction occurs when the gallery viewer musters the courage to try out the red swing installed in the center of the space. Hesitant at first, like riding a bicycle the worn body remembers instinctively the motions of kicking out the feet to gain altitude and all the worries in the world fall away within the second pass. If one faces down the space, a full sensation of being within the barn occurs.

The display is carefully organized from conservative traditional exhibition on one end of the hall to evolving into organic immersion on the other end of the hall, with the red swing as the transition back and forth.

This piece is also about selective memory.

How is it that we romanticize the past, feel nostalgic about the back-breaking work and hardship endured, how is it that we rarely are able to appreciate this moment, right now, with the same attention?

There is a push-pull in this exhibit, between the “Falling Down Barns” and the playful childhood memories that is intentional.

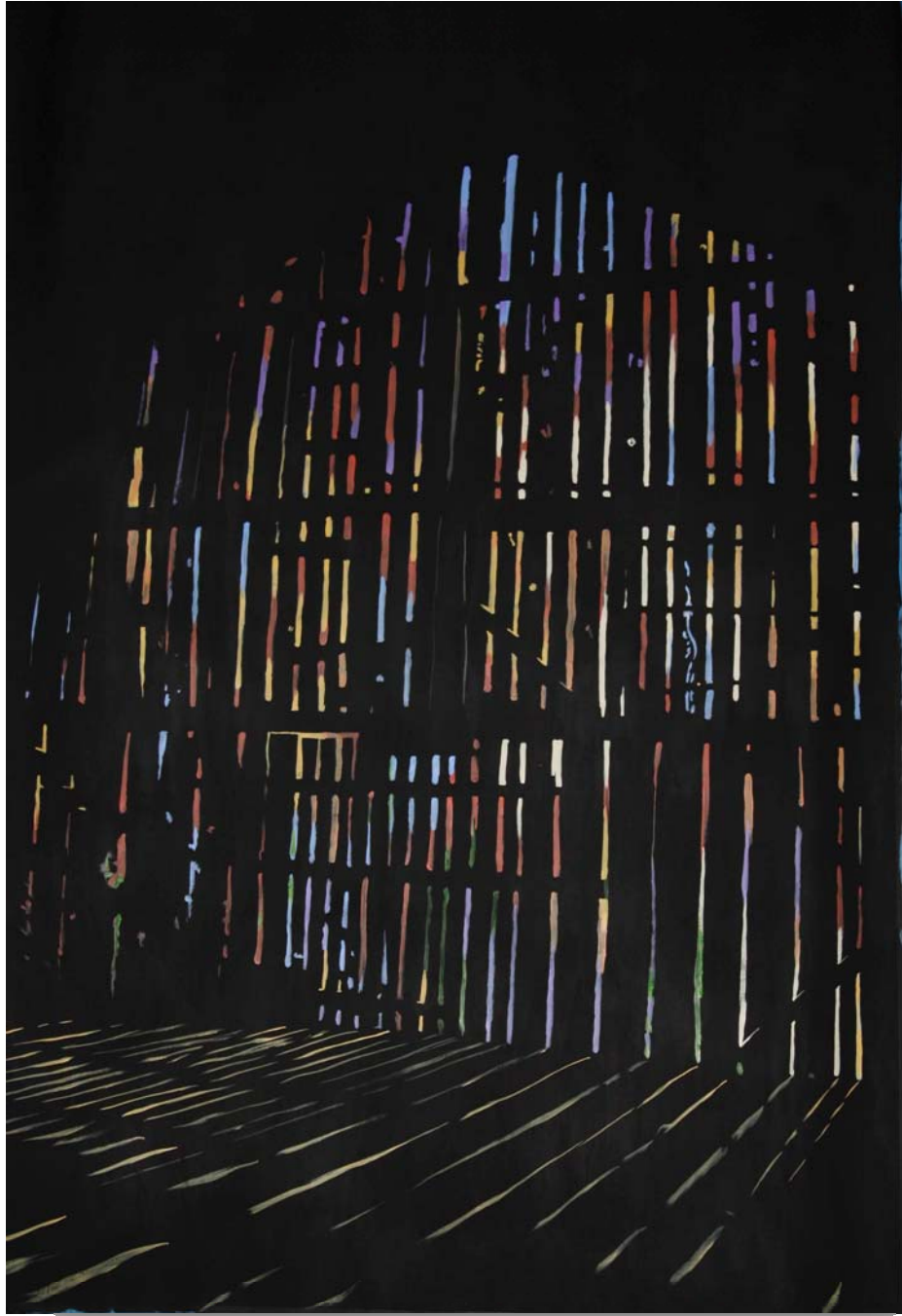


Blountville TN Barn in Yellow and Blue, 2009. 6.5 feet tall by 5 feet wide.

When all the wooden barns fall down,
what will we have lost?

I have completed three exhibitions that include this theme, each more ambitious than the last. Taking special note of how things are installed, the cubic feet of space needed, the number of helpers required, I am working towards a larger exhibition and am searching for the perfect venue.

In Abingdon, VA I hired an excellent “old time” Appalachian band (Roy Andrade, Cary Fridley, Doug Dorschug and Ed Snodderly.) We made a recording of the two hour session that occurred during the opening reception of “Sanctuaries III”. In future venues I would like to play the recording at a medium –low sound level on a repeating “loop”. People stay longer, and therefore look and think more, when there is sound. The recording includes ambient reception noise and conversation occurring for several minutes between each tune. I would keep that aspect.



“Aileen’s Window” 7 feet tall by 5 feet wide, water media on 140 lb paper. 2009

A few individual pieces are promised to upcoming museum shows for short periods of time.

This painting will be included in “From these Hills” at William King Museum from Oct 4th 2009 to Feb 15th, 2010.

Below are images of the types of sculptures that I would like to include if I had a bigger space.



The rope figures are eight feet tall, made of Kevlar air craft carrier rope coated in resin, inspired by baling twine in the barn. I would like to make more of them for a bigger venue.



I am working on an eight feet tall walking man made out of tobacco sticks I would like to show.

I would like to increase the number of hay bales for a better “tunnel” experience for adults and children. (All bales are safely secured by concealed means)

I would like to build/ reconstruct some barn rafters and walls in an appropriate venue.

I have concepts for sculptures made of tobacco leaves (coated with artist’s grade clear matt acrylic medium for permanency) and corn shucks. Below are examples of sculptures made from Cockleburs (burdock) that could be included as well, from “The Sticky Subjects Series”.





Installation view, Sanctuaries III at the Abingdon VA "Arts Depot" Aug-Sept 2009.

"Sanctuary" exhibited at Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap VA Jan 2009

"Sanctuaries II" exhibited at Carroll Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University, June 2009

"Sanctuaries (IV)" exhibited at Appalshop" in Whitesburg, KY October 2009.

"Sanctuary V" exhibits at Virginia Intermont College Jan-Feb 2010

Article that appeared in regional arts publication

<http://www.abingdonartsdepot.org/Lyle.html>

Please feel free to contact me.

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