

Williamson County Artist Exhibits for Awareness



"Mystic Mother," an eight foot, eight inch tall mixed media sculpture.

*"Endangered Heritage:
Nature in the Balance"*

Leiper's Fork resident and artist, Rachael McCampbell partners with Nashville gallery Tinney Contemporary and the Land Trust for Tennessee for an inspiring evening and ongoing exhibition of art and nature. The show is entitled, "Endangered Heritage: Nature in the Balance" and it opens with a reception at the gallery on Saturday, March 21st from 6 to 9 p.m.

Rare and endangered birds and animals are the subjects of the insightful works on display. The artist hopes to awaken viewers to the increasing need to protect the natural environment and its inhabitants. A percentage of the sales will benefit The Land Trust for Tennessee, the nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving natural and historical landscapes in the state.

"It's alarming," McCampbell says. "1,050 species are endangered and another 309 threatened in the United States alone. Everywhere you turn there is more information about the endangerment and near extinction of yet another species. As an artist, I am inspired to not only honor these beautiful creatures by

painting them, but to also raise awareness and incite action among the general public. There is no time left for complacency."

Mccampbell, who moved to rural Williamson County less than a year ago, turned to her newly adopted community for inspiration and support. The result includes the centerpiece of the exhibition, an eight-foot, eight-inch tall sculpture named "Mystic Mother" created from such natural elements as antlers, horns, twigs, dried mosses, grasses and the skeletal remains of animals that were donated to her by Leiper's Fork area neighbors. Surrounding the sculpture are paintings of endangered North American species such as Florida Panthers, Wood Bison, and Red Wolves to name a few.

"Endangered Heritage: Nature in the Balance" runs March 21 through April 25 at Tinney Contemporary, 237 Fifth Avenue North in Nashville. The gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 615.255.7816. 🌸

From the Hammock A GARDENER'S MUSINGS BY ROBIN LOCKWOOD

Dreams for Spring

Ordering my seeds the other day, I found myself beginning to feel a bit happier. It's been a rough winter. Several elders of our community have passed, along with a very dear friend of mine. I've been deeply grieving. Yet, selecting those seeds started a movement inside of me out of despair and grief, into a tiny flame of excitement.

Then, I noticed in the surrounding countryside, that several of my farmer friends have turned their fields, readying for the spring planting. By turning up those fields, they uncover all those pesky bugs which are

hibernating. Exposing them to the still freezing temperatures, helps kill those nasty little buggers and helps save the future crops. Open earth full of promise.

Oh, yes: the seed order. I ordered three varieties of lettuce, spinach and kale.

Six varieties of heirloom tomatoes will grace my garden this year. Oh boy, my mouth is watering. There is just something so life enhancing about even planning a garden. There is possibility in a world with no possibilities. There is hope when there is really nothing around for which to be hopeful. And there are dreams of

two pieces of bread, slathered with mayonnaise, ready for the thick slice of tomato: the quintessential tomato sandwich. Oh, oh, oh, how about a hot tomato straight out of the sun, and a salt shaker? There is hope on the horizon. I drool.....

Dreams are dreamt within the pages of the seed catalogues. Luscious pictures of vegetables and the desire to smell the earth on the hands brings me to this place year after year, again and again. I await the spring equinox with bated breath. There is nothing like tasting sweet leaves of lettuce straight from the garden. Nothing except that hot tomato. 🌸

Robin Lockwood lives in the southwest section of Williamson County and is a founding member of the Leipers Fork Garden Club. She is also well known as an herbalist and her column "Robin's Remedies."

