

Artist Statement

Having been told from elementary through High School that I was not creative, because I could not draw, I accepted that and never pursued art. However, I did knit and made all of my own designer clothes.

It wasn't until my husband died in 1993, that a good friend suggested that I do something I had never done before like art. I choose a course at the Art League in Basic Abstract Acrylic Painting. The rest is history. I found painting and all forms of creativity so therapeutic that I took classes in print making, fused glass, quilting, encaustic and more. My main interest lies in abstract painting and all different types of print making. I was on the board of directors of Pyramid Atlantic Art Center for 10 years where I also took courses in printing and paper making, another love, and did lots of fund raising for PAAC.

No matter what medium I am working in, my work is usually full of intense color and very geometric.

Cookie Kerxton
www.upstairsart.com



cookie kerxton
4948 St. Elmo Ave. #208
Bethesda, MD 20814
cookiekerxton@gmail.com

1953-1957 B.A. Liberal Arts-Ohio State University

1957-1958 Substitute teacher in Hanau, Germany

1968-1972 Substitute teacher in Montgomery County Junior and Senior High Schools

1970-1972 Taught Boutique Sewing in Adult Education

1972-1998 Director of Creative Arts Therapy Dept. Inova Fairfax In-Patient Psychiatric Unit

1993-present: Classes/workshops at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, the Art League, Smithsonian and at Pyramid Atlantic.

1998-2008 Member of the Board of Directors of Pyramid Atlantic

2008-2010 Studio Downstairs-Volunteered doing art with the mentally ill

2008-present: Founded and organized a fund for patients with head and neck cancer in need of financial help

After *26* years of teaching arts and crafts in a psychiatric hospital setting, combined with a lifetime interest in design, I found abstract art a natural transition.

In *1994*, I began studying abstract acrylic painting with Anne Marchand.

I then studied design, color, silk screen and monotype printing at the Corcoran with Susan Goldman, Dennis O'Neill and Anita Hinders..

I studied paper making at Pyramid Atlantic with Mary Ashton, Ellen Hill and Preston Sampson.

I have exhibited in many area group shows and my work hangs in private collections and in several commercial offices.

I am now print making with Susan Goldman at Lilly Press in Rockville, MD

I continue to experiment with new materials and art forms, the latest being collage and fused glass.. I work at my studio, Upstairs Art Studios, at *4948* St. Elmo in Bethesda, Md. which I share with *7* other artists.

Exhibited In the Following Juried Shows:

Black Rock "INK IT" Juried Show *2017*

Waverley Gallery "Process and Inspiration" *2017*

JCC Senior Art Show *2017*

JCC Senior Show *2014*

JCC Senior Show *2013*

JCC Senior Show *2012*

JCC Senior Show *2011*

JCC Senior Show *2010*

JCC Senior Show *2009*

National Center for Children and Families' Art and Soul *2008*

JCC Senior Show *2008*

National Center for Children and Families' Art and Soul *2007*
MD Printmakers Foundry Gallery *2007*
JCC Senior Show *2007*
Juried Members Show Glenview Mansion *2007*
JCC Senior Show *2006*
Touchstone Gallery Exquisite Corpse *2006*
MD Printmakers Glenview Mansion *2005*
JCC Senior Show *2005*
Art League Glenview Mansion *2005*
JCC Senior Show *2004*
Apex Gallery All Media Show *2004*
JCC Senior Show *2003*
MD Printmakers in Kentlands *2003*
International Visions *2002*
JCC Senior Show *2002*
Art League Media Membership Show *2000*
Corcoran Student and Faculty Show *1999*
MD Printmakers in Annapolis *1999*
Fairfax Art League *1998*
MD Printmakers Invitational *1998*

Dear Colleagues

I enthusiastically recommend Cookie Kerxton for membership into Touchstone Gallery.

We met years ago in a paper making workshop, we have traveled with other artists creating

Journals and sketches in France, Peru, Turkey, etc.

Cookie currently shares a studio workspace with 3 artists. It is part of her nature to keep

challenging herself- her paintings and prints are unique to her and of the highest quality.

She understands co-operative groups, and she is fun. I think she is a perfect candidate

for membership in Touchstone Gallery.

Best,

Jeanne Garant

May 3, 2018

Anne Marchand
Anne Marchand Studios
1413 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-257-2956
art@annemarchand.com

Touchstone Gallery
901 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

To members of the panel:

I would like to formally recommend Cookie Kerxton to be accepted as an exhibiting member at Touchstone Gallery. My name is Anne Marchand and I am a local artist, instructor and creative entrepreneur in Washington, DC.

I have known Cookie Kerxton and her work for over three decades and had the pleasure of being her instructor in the early years. I have watched Cookie's art develop and grow into an impressive body of work. She has mastered a strong vocabulary of color and design in her work through painting, printmaking and collage, while maintaining a remarkable integrity. Cookie consistently develops interesting ideas and continues to cultivate work that is vibrant and thoughtful. She is a true professional and is well respected in the Washington, DC area.

I admire Cookie's work in the community over the years. Along with her art making, she has used her marketing skills to bring together artists and community in inspiring ways, notably through a healing program, Courage Unmasked. She has raised monies for a worthy cause in a unique way, enlisting other creatives to transform radiation masks to works of art. She is one of the most hard working and dedicated artists I know. She is a talented artist, an inspiring leader, and finds time to be involved and generous with the area art scene. I highly recommend Cookie for membership in Touchstone Gallery.

Sincerely,
Anne Marchand

Letter of Recommendation for Cookie Kerxton
Mary D. Ott 5-13-2018

I have known Cookie Kerxton for about 25 years. We met in an abstract painting class taught by Anne Marchand at the Art League School in Alexandria. Cookie is a very determined person, a quality that is required to get things accomplished. Two examples are her organizing of a painting course and her creating a nonprofit to benefit persons experiencing head and neck cancer.

When Anne Marchand stopped teaching at the Art League, Cookie organized a private painting class taught by Anne for Cookie and a number of Cookie's friends. This class continued for about ten years. Some class members continue to work together as partners in a studio in Bethesda. The class that Cookie organized was instrumental in my development as a painter. In addition to her painting, Cookie has worked closely with Susan Goldman, creating colorful monotypes.

Cookie was inspired by her experience coping with cancer to create a nonprofit foundation known as 911 4 HNC. (HNC stands for head and neck cancer). She enlisted her many artist friends to create beautiful 3-dimensional works from the plastic radiation masks used during treatment of these cancers. The money raised by auctioning these masks and through other efforts goes to help support patients who are undergoing treatment.

I strongly recommend Cookie for membership at Touchstone Gallery.

May 13, 2018

Letter of Support for Cookie Kerxton to Touchstone Gallery

I have known Cookie Kerxton since 1991 when she was a student in my beginning printmaking classes at the Corcoran College of Art & Design. Cookie and I continued working together for the next two decades at Pyramid Atlantic where I was working. She took innumerable workshops and became a vital and active board member. Together we worked on several events for development and fundraising including “Food for the Soul” at several venues in the city, and the “Pyramid Atlantic Book Arts Fair”, held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the National Museum for Women in the Arts.

As time went on Cookie continued to take workshops, locally, nationally, and internationally, as well as making prints with me in my studio Lily Press®. She has always maintained her own studio and is an active member of the greater Washington, DC arts community. She is a marvelous painter and printmaker and will be a tremendous asset to the Touchstone Gallery.

Beyond her artistic accomplishments she has single handedly founded a tremendously supportive non-profit HC911, helping head and neck cancer patients receive additional funding for out of pocket expenses for medical treatment, beyond what their insurance provides. She is known throughout the country for the strides she has made for this organization and has partnered with national arts communities to great success, using the masks patients wear for treatment, as a means to create artworks, to raise awareness and funds for those in need.

I am honored to know Cookie and count her not only as my colleague in the field of fine arts, but as a beloved friend. I recommend Cookie Kerxton without hesitation to be a member of your gallery and community.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Goldman
Director, Lily Press®, LLC
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Rockville, MD 20852
301-613-8457
www.lilypress.com
www.susangoldman.net

Budget Results for January through October 2017
Mary D. Ott 11/19/17

As in the previous reports, the budget results are shown in two tables: 1.) a table indicating the income elements in the budget, as well as the “gross profit” after payments to artists for their sales have been deducted; and 2.) a table for the expenses, as well as the “net income” (or loss).

There are three sets of three columns each in the budget tables. The first set is for September, the second set for October, and the third set for January through October combined. Within each set are three columns. The first is the budgeted amount, the second is the actual amount, and the third set gives the actual amount minus the budgeted amount.

The net income budgeted for each month without a fundraising event was a loss of \$165. The net income budgeted for months with fundraisers is a positive value for those months when fundraiser income was received, and a negative value for those months when fundraiser expenses were paid.

September 2017

Income: In September income from art sales was \$3,375, \$2,443 less than budgeted. Income from gallery rental was \$1,875, \$625 less than budgeted. Income from dues was \$8,248, \$609 less than budgeted. The total income was \$13,523, \$3,818 less than budgeted. After paying the artists for their sales, the gross profit in September was \$11,498, \$2,334 less than budgeted.

Expenses: In September expenses totaled \$12,673, \$1,324 less than budgeted. Because art sales were less than budgeted, the charge card fees and the commission paid to the director were less than budgeted. Juried show-related expenses were \$73.

Net Income: The *net loss* in September was \$1,176. This loss was \$1,011 greater than budgeted.

October 2017

Income: In October art sales totaled \$5,058, \$760 less than budgeted. Rentals totaled \$1,875; income from rentals was \$625 less than budgeted. Membership dues and initiation fees totaled \$7,906, \$951 less than budgeted. Income from Spotlight entries was \$180; there was a \$200 donation. The total income was \$15,219, \$2,122 less than budgeted. After paying the artists for their sales, the gross profit in October was \$12,169, \$1,663 less than budgeted.

Expenses: In October expenses totaled \$13,742, \$255 less than budgeted. Wages and charge card fees were lower than budgeted because art sales were less than budgeted. The cost of utilities (Pepco) was \$996, \$246 more than budgeted.

Net income: In October 2017, the *net loss* was \$1,573, \$1,408 more than budgeted.

January through October 2017

Income: For the first ten months of 2017 the total income was \$158,441, \$24,469 less than budgeted. Sales were \$40,231, \$17,949 less than budgeted. Income from gallery rentals totaled \$18,000, \$7,000 less than budgeted. Income from dues and initiation fees totaled \$84,229; that was \$4,332 less than budgeted. On the other hand, income from fundraisers—mainly the juried show—was \$13,484; that was \$3,984 more than budgeted. Donations totaled \$2,498, \$828 more than budgeted. After paying the artists for their sales, the gross profit was \$133,989, \$13,831 less than budgeted.

Expenses: Expenses for January through October 2017 totaled \$135,715. That was \$7,561 less than budgeted. In part this resulted from lower wages, charge card fees, advertising, repairs and

maintenance, and miscellaneous expenses than were budgeted. Expenses for electricity were \$7,281, \$219 less than budgeted.

Net Income: The *net loss* for the first ten months of 2017 was \$1,726. That was \$6,269 greater than budgeted.

Summary:

Art sales, gallery rentals and dues earned less than budgeted in the first ten months of 2017, income from fundraisers and from donations was greater than budgeted. A number of expenses, such as for advertising, were less than budgeted but fundraiser-related expenses were greater than budgeted. In summary the gallery had a net loss of \$1,726 in the first ten months of the year.

Notable Facts:

It appears that the budget targets for 2017 were too optimistic.

Art sales in October were a little over \$5,000, whereas in the prior 9 months art sales averaged about \$4,000.

The recent decrease in full and show membership has resulted in a shortfall in dues. There are currently 7 inactive members, one remote member, and 40 active members.

Although the expenses for electricity are less than budgeted for the year, in recent months the Pepco bills have been greater than budgeted.

Income from the "Spotlight" entries will mainly be received in November.

Cookie Kerxton website : upstairsartstudios.com

Cookie Kerxton is interested in Full Membership status