

21

Glorious Snakes

Artists: Blacksburg Regional
Art Association
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#21 and #23 - Glorious Snakes and Seeds of Change

The artists - These two installations originated from Nancy Norton (also see #9 and 11) and Gerri Young, members of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA). Nancy and a group of other members of the association painted one or more of the segments, which make up the "snakes" hanging in two trees and the "seed pods" hanging under the wisteria gazebo. Member Bill Pulley (also see #8) master minded the connection of the segments and helped Nancy install the snakes. Gerri and member Judy Crowgey installed the seed pods. This creation was a group effort from start to finish.

About our installation art - Nancy happened to own 50 "arms" she bought from Coldwater Creek when they went out of business in Blacksburg. The arms were used to stuff the arms of blouses and/or sweaters on display. Nancy bought the things, having no idea what she would do with them until the garden project came along. She pitched the idea to BRAA and we ended up with the snake and seed pod concept. The whole point of it was to show how something could be repurposed into something totally different and be very entertaining to all who see them. A couple test arms were painted with acrylic paint during February and they spent most of the winter outdoors, weathering the winter with very little distress, assuring us they would last throughout the exhibit period.

Volunteers from our membership painted one or more arms at home. Other than requiring the use of acrylic paint for prime and decorative coats, our painters were free to use their imaginations for the artwork. We had a "paint party" with a small group of artists painting them at one sitting. When they were all done, we had to figure out how to connect the arms to create the two snakes on exhibit. That turned out to be a challenge! They are stuffed with very dense foam and have some sort of structure running through them to allow for shaping. A power drill and electrical ties provided the right connection.